REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1906-1907.



Calcutta:

THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPÔT.

1908.

[*Price :—Indian, Rs. 3; English, 4s. 6d.*]

Published at the Bengal Secretariat Book Depôt, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

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PART I



GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING 1906-1907.

THE permanent Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Fraser, K.C.S.I., was on leave from the 11th April 1906 to the 7th October 1906. The Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir Lancelot) Hare was appointed to officiate for him, but left on the 15th August 1906 to take up the Lieutenant-Governorship of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Hon'ble Mr. Slacke held charge during the remaining portion of Sir Andrew Fraser's leave. **The Lieutenant-Governor.**

The head-quarters of Government were at Darjeeling from the 13th April to the 1st July, from the 22nd August to the 5th November. For the remainder of the year Calcutta was the head-quarters. **Head-quarters of Government.**

2. In April His Honour (Mr. Hare) visited Kalimpong, where he conferred the *sanad* of the title of Rai Bahadur upon Babu Ram Chandra Mintri, opened the Jarvie Hall of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes and cut the first sod of the Steel Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium. His Honour also inspected the Homes settlement. **Tours.**

In July His Honour visited Cuttack, Balasore, Midnapore, Ranchi, Purulia, Bankipore, Gaya and Arrah. The rest of the monsoon tour was abandoned, as Mr. Hare was at this juncture appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

The Hon'ble Mr. Slacke visited Muzaffarpur in September to discuss with the local officers the measures to be adopted to cope with the distress caused by floods in that district and Darbhanga.

3. In November Sir Andrew Fraser went from Darjeeling to Siliguri by the Tista Valley Road and thence to Calcutta, which was reached on the 6th November. A week later His Honour went *viâ* Bankipore to Darbhanga, where he inspected the famine-relief operations. He afterwards paid a short visit to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Cooch Behar and returned to Calcutta on the 30th November.

In December His Honour opened the hospital of the Medical Mission at Kalna; and in January 1907 he paid a flying visit to Burdwan by motor.

In February His Honour visited Khulna. Here he distributed the prizes awarded to the exhibitors at the local exhibition, inspected various public institutions and opened the new Dispensary building. Lady Fraser laid the foundation-stone of the new Cottage Hospital in connection with the Lady Dufferin Fund.

4. On the 19th February His Honour started on an extended tour in Orissa and Bihar. His Honour first went to Amowa in the Moharbhanj State and thence to Puri, where he inspected local institutions and visited the temples and other objects of interest. The work of restoration of the Bhubaneswar temple and of the Black Pagoda at Kanarak was inspected and the site of the proposed female ward of the Puri Pilgrim Hospital at Cuttack was finally settled. Passing through Bankipore, His Honour next went to Darbhanga to make further enquiries regarding the famine-relief operations. Hutwa was then visited. Here His Honour unveiled the statue of the late Queen Victoria, opened the "Woodburn Home" and laid the foundation-stone of an outdoor dispensary. Before leaving the Saran district, His Honour visited the Cawnpore Sugar Works at the Marhourah Factory.

5. His Honour next proceeded to Jamalpur in Monghyr, where he inspected the extensive railway workshops and opened the Church Mission Society's Hostel. In March His Honour went on tour in the interior of the Sambalpur district, and visited the Maharaja of Patna.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Cooch Behar.

6. The administration of the Cooch Behar State shows steady progress. The public health was good. Steps are being taken to encourage the development of industrial and technical ability among the people.

States of Chota Nagpur and Orissa.

7. The land settlement of the two States of Seraikela and Kharsawan has been completed. This has not only given a considerable increase in the rent-roll, but has also composed to rest many complicated boundary disputes and many vexed questions relating to the status of tenure-holders and raiyats.

8. The appointment of a Political Agent for the Feudatory States of Orissa has enabled Government to watch their administration much more closely than in the past, and various improvements have already resulted. An annual budget is now generally prepared and adhered to fairly closely; the forests are being brought under proper management; education and public health are receiving much attention, and the number of excise shops is being reduced. The expenditure on roads and public buildings is increasing.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Health.

9. The public health during the year 1906 was on the whole bad, the ratio of births per mille being below, and that of deaths above the mean of the preceding five years. The reduced birth-rate was largely due to the general unhealthiness of the previous year; while the increase in the death-rate occurred chiefly under fevers and cholera.

Prices

10. An outstanding feature of the year was the extraordinary rise in prices of food-grains. This seems to have been due partly to the short outturn of the harvests of the last two years, partly to the large profits made by the cultivation of jute, and partly to a general rise in the standard of living among the people. In some districts there was considerable scarcity caused by floods or by partial failure of crops; but even in districts where there was no such failure, prices continued high, and there was no demand for cheap Burma rice.

11. From various quarters there comes abundant testimony of a gradual rise in wages, usually expressed by saying that labour is difficult to obtain at the old customary rates. Thus in the Sonthal Parganas certain improvements in Government estates were not carried out because the sanctioned rates were not high enough to attract coolies or contractors; from Shahabad the promoters of the scheme of State-aided emigration to Burma reported that they were unwilling to continue their efforts to despatch coolies, as a scarcity of labour was beginning to be felt at home. Wages.

12. Enquiries into the alleged scarcity of labour for factories led to the conclusion that the supply is adequate on the whole, but runs short at certain seasons of the year owing to the fact that numbers of the hands go to their homes for a time to aid in the more important agricultural operations. The industrial development of Bengal is of too recent origin to permit of any conclusions being drawn as to the probabilities of a class of factory operatives gradually springing up. Arrangements were made during the year for the supply to the Chamber of Commerce and to the Industrial Associations of quarterly reports as to the supply and movements of labour in the labour-supplying districts. Supply of Labour.

13. High floods destroyed the rice crop in the Darbhanga district, and subsequent drought not only withered up the fresh rice seedlings that were afterwards planted but also damaged the *rabi* crop. The area worst affected contained a population of about 1½ million persons. Prompt measures of relief were taken, and everything possible was done to mitigate the distress. Nearly twelve lakhs of rupees were expended on test-works and in gratuitous relief; and six and-a-half lakhs were given out as agricultural loans. The *bhadoi* crop of 1907 was excellent, and relief operations ceased when the time came to harvest it. Famine.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

14. The demand on account of land revenue was higher by a lakh of rupees than in 1905-1906. The total collections slightly exceeded the current demand. The amount remitted was the smallest on record, and the outstanding balances are now lower than they have ever been before. Demand and Collections.

15. Various improvements are being introduced in the procedure for bringing to sale estates or shares of estates in respect of which a default has occurred. It is admittedly impossible in the vast majority of cases to tell a proprietor whether or not there is an arrear of land revenue due in respect of his estate or share before sunset on the latest day allowed by law for payment. It is thus necessary to take all reasonable precautions before bringing an estate or share to sale. As a matter of fact, in only a very small proportion of the cases where defaults occur are the defaulting estates actually brought to sale. Sale Law.

16. The practice of paying land revenue by means of money-orders is growing steadily. The system is specially popular amongst petty Revenue and Rent Money-orders.

landlords who have only small sums to pay. The increase in rent money-orders is not so rapid. This method of receiving rent has nothing to recommend it in the eyes of the collecting staff of a landlord, and so it is not surprising that frequently these money-orders are refused. The amount of rent remitted by money-orders is still very small in comparison with the total rental of the province.

Certificate Procedure and Cesses.

17. The number of certificates issued was considerably less than in the preceding year, but the number of objections filed and disposed of was practically the same. This summary procedure is used mainly for realizing arrears of the Road and Public Works Cesses and of rents in certain Wards' and Attached Estates.

Road and Public Works Cesses were levied as usual at the full rate of one anna in each rupee of rental, or on the anual net profits, in certain cases. Revaluation and assessment proceedings are in progress in over half the number of districts wherein cesses are levied.

Land Registration Department.

18. Considerable progress has been made in the revision of the Land Registration registers consequent on the recent amendment of the law, and in view of the additional and more accurate information placed at the disposal of Collectors by the completion of settlement operations in various districts. Arrangements have been made to secure that information of sales of proprietary interests is promptly conveyed to this department by Civil Courts and Sub-Registrars, and by officers engaged on Land Acquisition, Partition, Certificates, and the administration of the Revenue Sale Law.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Programmes and Progress.

19. Survey and settlement operations were in progress in fourteen districts during the year. The full programmes were practically completed. The subordinate staff for cadastral survey in the Ranchi Settlement has been placed directly under the control of the Settlement Officer, assisted by a professional adviser for technical questions, with quite satisfactory results. Up to the close of the year record-of-rights had been completed for 24,704 square miles.

LAND RECORDS.

Revision Work: Orissa.

20. It has been decided to introduce a system of annual maintenance of the settlement records in Orissa; and as a preliminary to this, arrangements were made during the year to bring the records of the last settlement up-to date.

Bihar.

No action will be taken to revise the records of the Bihar Settlement till experience of the working of the Orissa maintenance scheme has been acquired. The mutation offices established under the Land Records Maintenance Act, VII of 1895, have recorded still fewer mutations than in the previous year. A more extended use of the record-of-rights in all branches of administrative and judicial work is reported.

Waste Lands.

21. The rules governing the granting of leases for the reclamation of waste-lands are still under consideration.

The reclamation work at Fraserganj in the Sunderbans was hampered by various unforeseen difficulties, such as cholera among the coolies. A considerable area has now been cleared, but the number of settlers is still small.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

22. The number of estates under management was 190. Of these about one third were Wards' Estates, and the remainder Encumbered Estates in Chota Nagpur. The collections were fairly good, though the outstanding balances are necessarily large when new estates are constantly being brought under management. The amounts paid in liquidation of debts were about one-fourth of the sum still due at the close of the year. A considerable sum was spent on works of improvements and also on schools and dispensaries. Special attention was devoted to the education of minors under the Court. **General aspects.**

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

23. There were no serious agrarian disturbances during the year. Individual instances continue to be reported in which proprietors have been guilty of the illegal enhancement of rent, the exaction of forced contributions, the failure to grant proper rent receipts, etc., while on the other hand there have been cases in which refractory raiyats have combined to defraud landlords of their legal dues. Fortunately strained relations of this sort are the exception rather than the rule; and there is evidence that with the progress of settlement operations, which have now passed over more than one-third of the province, the area and scope of agrarian dispute are gradually being narrowed down. The recent amendments in the Bengal Tenancy Act have rendered it more difficult than before for landlords to circumvent the settlement record-of-rights, or to evade those provisions of the law which afford protection to tenants. **Landlords and Raiyats.**

The special Tenancy Act in force in Chota Nagpur has been carefully overhauled; and an amending Bill has been drafted, which, when it becomes law, will place the relations of landlords and tenants in that division on a sounder footing than they have hitherto occupied.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

24. Three Acts were passed by the Bengal Council, viz., the Land Registration Act, the Disorderly Houses Act, and the Sambalpur Civil Courts Act. A few days after the close of the year, was passed Act I of 1907, which has made many changes in the Bengal Tenancy Act, and is the most important piece of agrarian legislation since that measure was passed into law in 1885. **Acts passed.**

25. Amongst the Bills introduced into Council, but not passed, the most important were the Bills to amend the Local Self-Government Act and the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act. It has since been decided to replace the latter Bill by a new one of a more comprehensive character. **Bills brought before the Council.**

POLICE.

Police Work in the Mufassal.

26. Steady progress is being made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Police Commission. Several additions were made to the superior staff during the year, and some appointments were made to the new graded service of Deputy Superintendents. More than two thousand constables were trained in the police training schools at Bhagalpur, Ranchi and Purulia. The general improvement in the pay and prospects of the police is attracting a better class of candidates. There is every hope that an all-round improvement will ultimately become apparent. A higher standard of discipline is already enforced.

Steps are being taken to put the Chaukidari system on a better footing. Endeavours are being made to raise the position of the village panchayats and to transfer to them much of the control over the chaukidars, which has hitherto been exercised by the police. Experiments are in progress with a view to ascertaining whether it is feasible to utilize the chaukidari establishments for the service of revenue processes.

For the preservation of the public peace, additional police were entertained in some districts at the cost of the inhabitants, and special police were enlisted for short periods in other districts. The question of the supply of police to private individuals for their protection on special occasions was considered, and the general principles to be followed in dealing with such applications were enunciated.

As is usual in times of scarcity and high prices, there was a considerable increase in the number of thefts and burglaries reported during the year. There was, however, no such increase in the more serious crimes against the person, such as murder, and against property, such as dacoity and rioting. The Criminal Investigation Department devoted special attention to the prevalence of dacoity; and some important gang cases were instituted under section 400, Indian Penal Code. Several notorious gangs were thus broken up.

The Railway Police are now directly under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Crime and Railways, with a Superintendent of Police for each of the principal Railway systems.

Police Work in Calcutta.

27. The reorganization scheme for the Calcutta Police, which was sanctioned in August 1906, is being worked up to gradually. Stricter discipline, and the special attention devoted to the River Police, have resulted in an increase in the number of departmental punishments. On the other hand there have been fewer resignations owing to the improvements which have been made in the matter of pay and promotion.

There was a large increase in Calcutta in the number of true cognizable cases; but this is partly accounted for by greater activity in prosecuting for public nuisances and cruelty to animals. Very few murder cases resulted in a conviction, but a considerable measure of success was obtained in prosecuting "bucket-shop" firms. The so-called "kidnapping scare" for a time perturbed the native community and led to various unprovoked assaults on harmless individuals.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

General Survey.

28. The number of criminal offences, whether under the Indian Penal Code or under special and local laws, showed an appreciable increase on the figures for the previous year, the increase being distributed fairly equally over the greater part of the province.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code show a considerable increase in several districts. The revision of the law with reference to the procedure to be adopted in cases involving disputes as to the possession of land is under the consideration of Government.

The shorter average duration of Sessions trials, following on an improvement in this respect in the previous year, is a satisfactory feature in the year's work. The results in regard to the detention of witnesses in Sessions cases were, however, not so good as in 1905, owing to the large number of lengthy gang cases which came up for trial.

In Mufassal Magistrates' Courts cases were on the whole disposed of with commendable despatch, nearly 80 per cent. of the witnesses being examined and discharged on the first day.

JAILS.

29. During the year there was a slight increase in the total jail population, as well as in the daily average population—a result which is due to the high price of food-grains. It is gratifying to find that, in spite of increased numbers, the death-rate calculated on the daily average number of all classes of prisoners for all the jails stood at 23·7 per mille—a figure which is well below the decennial average (26·5). The general death rate for the whole province was over 36 per mille. *Jail Population and mortality.*

The Midnapore Jail is still the most unhealthy in the whole province, but radical improvements are being carried out in the ventilation of the wards and workshops, and Captain Forster, I.M.S., has been deputed to make a special investigation of dysentery, which is a common disease both in the jail and in the surrounding district. A special anti-malarial campaign in the Buxar Central Jail has had excellent results, the number of cases of malarial fever having been reduced by one-half.

Efforts have been made during the year to prevent overcrowding in the jails, and there has been considerable progress in matters connected with the classification and segregation of prisoners. Instructions were issued during the year to Magistrates, calling especial attention to the necessity of dealing with juvenile offenders in a sympathetic spirit.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

30. In all there were 2,172 civil suits pending for trial in the year 1906. Out of that total, 994 suits were decided and 1,178 were left pending at the close of the year. Of the number pending, 555 have been pending for more than one year. Of the number decided, 202 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution: 347 were decreed after contest and the remainder were disposed of in other ways. *Calcutta High Court, Civil Side.*

31. In all 412,801 suits were instituted during the year 1906, this being a considerable increase on the figures of 1905, which were themselves very much higher than those of 1904. The vast majority of these were for comparatively small sums; 62 per cent. of the suits for money and 75 per cent. of those for rent were for sums less than Rs. 50. *Subordinate Civil Courts.*

The total value of suits instituted is about six crores less than that for 1905, but one large title suit valued at six crores, filed in the previous year, had inflated the figures for that year to an abnormally high total.

There was an appreciable decrease in the institutions in Midnapore and Shahabad. In Jessore and the 24-Parganas the number of institutions was over 48,000 and over 41,000, respectively.

The average duration of contested cases under the ordinary procedure was 181 days before District Judges, 296 days before Subordinate Judges and 156 days before Munsifs. The corresponding figures for uncontested cases are 112, 175 and 84. The figures for Subordinate Judges' Courts show a considerable reduction on those of last year. In spite of the increase in institutions, the number of suits pending at the close of the year is practically the same as that of last year, viz., 70,000.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

32. During the year under review there was a marked increase of activity in this department, especially in regard to the registration of wills and documents relating to moveable and immoveable property. The receipts increased by 16 per cent. and the expenditure by 13 per cent. In the Ranchi district there was a very marked increase in the registration of leases for terms of years, said to be due to the approaching settlement operations.

Indian Companies Act.

33. The statistics show that there has been marked activity during the year in co-operative commercial undertakings.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

34. The number of Municipalities remained the same as at the close of the preceding year. The record of their administration was, on the whole, satisfactory. The improvement in collections so noticeable in recent years was maintained, the percentage of total collections on the current demand rising from 96·4 to 97·1, thus reducing the outstanding balance to only 3·9 of the current demand. The total revenue receipts of the Municipalities increased by Rs. 2,12,077, while the expenditure rose by Rs. 4,69,821. Greater attention was paid to the improvement of conservancy arrangements, water-supply and drainage. Many schemes of water-supply and drainage were in various stages of preparation during the year. Among these may be mentioned the important water-supply schemes for the towns of Gaya, Monghyr, Puri, and Bhagalpur, and the drainage schemes for Howrah, Puri, Burdwan, Maniktola, and Berhampore. Five Municipalities obtained loans from Government aggregating Rs. 2,92,000 for carrying out projects of improvement.

Calcutta Municipality.

35. The year was marked by sustained progress in many departments. The realizations of the Collection Department showed a further advance, and good progress was made in the matters of *busti* improvement and conservancy. The comprehensive project for the improvement of the added suburban area was brought to completion, so far as the area to the east of the Tolly's Nala is concerned. The total expenditure incurred on the scheme to the end of the year was Rs. 62,50,606. The sewers have been working so satisfactorily that it appears to be unnecessary at present to proceed with a separate surface drainage scheme, which was estimated to cost nine lakhs of rupees in round figures. The Corporation have decided with the sanction of Government to largely increase the water-supply of the town by means of an elevated reservoir. Detailed plans and specifications were in course of preparation during the year. The Calcutta Improvement Scheme was considered by the Commissioners, and their views on it were submitted to Government.

36. There was no change in the number of District Boards during the year. A new Local Board was constituted in the Giridih subdivision in the district of Hazaribagh. On the whole the District Boards did well during the year, and showed considerable interest in the various branches of their work. Special attention was directed to the necessity of securing as far as possible that District and Local Boards should be of a representative character. A sum of rupees nine lakhs was allotted to the various Divisions for distribution among the District Boards for augmenting their resources, and loans amounting to Rs. 1,10,000 were made to the District Boards of Champaran and Muzaffarpur for the repair of extensive damages to roads in the former district caused by floods and for the construction of an important bridge in the latter district. **District Boards.**

37. The rules under which District Engineers are recruited have been modified, so as to provide a larger field of choice and avoid the obviously undesirable course of appointing subordinates, without proper qualifications, to the charge of districts.

38. Arrangements have been completed to give a course of training in practical arboriculture to subordinates of District Boards at Sibpur under the supervision of the Curator of the Royal Botanic Garden.

39. The Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was introduced in Council and referred to a Select Committee, who withdrew the provisions inserted in the Bill to enable District Boards to levy a special cess for the payment of guaranteed interest on capital or of interest on loans for the construction of tramways and light railways in view of the objections raised by the public bodies consulted.

40. Considerable expenditure was incurred by the District Boards of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions in the tracts north of the Ganges in relieving the distress caused by floods and the scarcity that followed. Special grants were made by Government to these District Boards to recoup the amounts thus spent.

41. The working of the Local Boards was not quite satisfactory. Government has had under consideration the question of improving the constitution of these bodies with a view to increasing their efficiency.

42. This Act was extended during the year to certain areas in the Jajpur subdivision in the district of Cuttack which are habitually traversed by pilgrims on their way to the town of Jajpur. The number of licensed lodging-houses remained practically the same as in the preceding year, but there was an increase of over 6,000 in the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided. **Puri Lodging-House Act.**

The income of the lodging-house funds increased to some extent as compared with the previous year, while the expenditure declined by nearly 50 per cent., the reduction being chiefly in Gaya and Puri. In the former town funds were reserved for a contribution towards the local water-works scheme, and in the latter less expenditure was incurred on original works.

The number of prosecutions and of fines imposed and recovered diminished to a large extent owing to the lodging-house-keepers becoming more familiar with the provisions of the rules. The sanitary arrangements of the lodging-houses were satisfactory, and the health of the pilgrims was, on the whole, good.

MARINE.

The Port of Calcutta.

43. The number of vessels arriving at, and departing from, the Port of Calcutta during 1906-1907 showed an increase of 108 over that of the previous year. There was, therefore, an increase in the pilotage receipts, which amounted to Rs. 14,21,189 during the year, against Rs. 13,62,785 in 1905-06. No serious casualties took place.

At the close of the year there were 50 qualified Pilots on the strength, against the sanctioned strength of 58 Pilots. This can only be worked up to as the Leadsmen qualify. Arrangements were made for bringing out four Leadsmen apprentices from England and for the appointment of one locally selected candidate.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

44. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 84,380 in 1906-1907, against Rs. 83,617 in 1905-06, showing an increase of Rs. 763, which was mainly due to a larger amount of overtime fees realised during the year. There was an increase in shipments and discharges under European articles, while those under Indian articles showed a decrease.

Calcutta Port Trust.

45. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,00,08,737 during the year 1906-07, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 98,90,809. The surplus for the year was Rs. 1,17,928. Adding this amount to the Revenue balance on 1st April 1906, the nett surplus revenue on 31st March 1907 was Rs. 29,59,533. Out of this surplus revenue Rs. 26,23,734 have been set aside as Revenue Reserve and Rs. 3,35,799 have been carried forward.

Sinking Funds to the extent of Rs. 58,70,884 have been accumulated for the repayment of debenture loans. The balance standing at the credit of the Depreciation Fund on 31st March 1907 was Rs. 7,07,850. The total accumulations under the Fire Insurance Fund amounted to Rs. 6,32,591. During the year there was an all-round increase in the receipts. The traffic showed also an advance.

The Ports of Orissa.

46. The receipts of the Orissa Ports decreased during the year. The decrease was due to a falling off in the receipts under Port Dues in Cuttack owing to merchants having despatched rice to Colombo *viâ* Chandbali. The value of trade showed an increase over the last year's figure. It was mainly due to the heavy export of rice to foreign ports. No seamen were shipped or discharged at False Point during the year.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Department of Agriculture.

47. The Department of Agriculture was separated from that of Land Records early in the year 1906; and in the time that has since elapsed great activity has been displayed in every branch of its work. Four agricultural stations are rapidly approaching completion. Experiments have been made, with useful results, in connection with the cultivation of paddy, flax, jute, sugar-cane, silk, cotton, etc. Valuable notes on the cultivation of various crops and the destruction of certain pests have

been widely circulated. The report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the silk industry was received during the year, and a scheme was under preparation for giving effect to the remedial measures proposed. Two more passed students from Sibpur were sent for further training to the Cornell University in America. In addition to the Provincial Agricultural Association, Divisional and District Associations are now in full working order.

48. Suitable arrangements have now been made for the supply of seeds, manures and approved implements, and collections of them are taken round for practical demonstration at shows, fairs and exhibitions. **Supplies.**

A Manual of Arboriculture has been prepared by the Director, and a Quarterly Journal has been founded.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

49. The distribution of the rainfall was unfavourable. It was deficient in the spring, retarding the sowings of jute and *bhadoi* crops, and also in September and (locally) in October, when most needed for the winter rice. There was excessive rain in July and August and hailstorms in February and March. The crops suffered accordingly and, while the area sown was about the same as usual, the total outturn is estimated to have been only three quarters of the normal. Sugar-cane yielded a good return, but the area under this crop is comparatively small. **Weather and Crops.**

HORTICULTURE.

50. The Department of Agriculture has taken over the experimental work formerly carried on in the Royal Botanic Garden in order that the work in Garden may be more exclusively restricted to botanical research. Loans of collections and exchanges of plants have been made between this Garden and others in all parts of the world. **Experimental work.**

51. The plantations at Mangpu and Mansong have been considerably extended; and with the additional machinery for the Factory which has now been obtained, a larger outturn of anti-febrile medicines is expected. Owing to the expansion of the Mansong Division, it was made executively independent of Mangpu during the year, and placed in charge of an Assistant Superintendent specially appointed for the purpose. A scheme for further extending the cinchona cultivation in Bengal in order to provide for a much larger output of quinine in future years, to meet the growing demand for the drug, is now under consideration. **Cinchona.**

FORESTS.

52. Further progress was made in the preparation and revision of working-plans and in opening out the forests by roads. In spite of unfavourable climatic conditions, the damage caused by fires was small. The usual limitations on grazing were in force. A new Division was created during the year, including most of the protected forests in the Kolhan Government Estate. A class for the practical instruction of selected subordinates was opened at Kurseong. The proposals for the reorganization of the subordinate staff were still under consideration. **Administrative.**

There was a net surplus of nearly half the gross revenue.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

General.

53. The outstanding features of the year are the abnormally high prices for raw jute and the great activity in the coal-mines. The demand for tea has increased and prices have gone up considerably. Indigo has improved its position somewhat. The prospects of the sugar factories are fairly bright.

Number of Factories.

54. The number of factories increased from 185 to 190 during the year, and provided employment for a daily average of 266,205 operatives. There were strikes in the Fort Gloster Jute Mill at Bowreah and in the India Jute Mill at Serampore. They were of very short duration, as the situation was promptly dealt with.

Factory Operatives.

55. The general health of the operatives and their conditions of labour continue to be satisfactory. The rate of wages paid to mill hands is generally higher than that earned by labourers of a similar class engaged in other occupations. There was no scarcity of labour, except possibly for a couple of months in the year, when some of the hands returned home to cultivate their fields.

TRADE.

Foreign Trade.

56. The value of the sea-borne trade (merchandise only) of the province in 1906-1907 was the highest on record, namely, 120·9 crores of rupees, and was greater than that in 1905-1906 by 8·4 crores, or 7·5 per cent. Of this total, the trade of Calcutta accounted for 120·5 crores, against 109 crores in the previous year. The total imports into Calcutta were valued at 42 crores, and of these manufactured cotton piece-goods, yarns, etc., were, as usual, the most important items, although the value of this trade declined this year from 21·4 crores, in 1905-1906 to 18·6 crores, or 13 per cent. About 75 per cent. of the total imports of the year came from the United Kingdom as compared with 76 per cent. in the previous year, while Germany, on the other hand, increased her shipments from 3·5 to 4·8 per cent.

Imports.

Exports.

57. The total value of exports in 1906-1907 was 78·5 crores as compared with 67·4 crores in the previous year. Jute continued to be the most important staple of the export trade, and the aggregate value of jute, raw and manufactured together, exported in the year was 40 crores as compared with 28 crores in the preceding year, equivalent to an increase of 39 per cent.

There were increased exports of coal, owing to which and to a steady advance in prices (counteracted to some extent by a reduction in railway freights) the total value exceeded that of the preceding year by 8½ lakhs. The trade in food-grains suffered from great depression, due to the unfavourable season. The United Kingdom was the largest importer of goods exported from Bengal, and took 27 per cent. of the whole quantity exported in 1906-1907. The United States with 16 per cent., Germany with 12·6 per cent. and China with 8·6 per cent. came next.

Frontier Trade.

58. The total value of the registered trans-frontier trade (excluding treasure) was 302 lakhs in 1906-1907, as compared with 351 lakhs in the previous year. The total, however, is higher than that for 1904-1905 by 32 lakhs. Of this, 268·8 lakhs, or about 89 per cent., is represented by the trade with Nepal. There was a marked decline in the Nepal trade of 36 lakhs, or 11·9 per cent. (21 lakhs in imports and 15 lakhs in exports). The

total value of imports into Bengal from the trans-frontier countries was 205·56 lakhs, as compared with 235·27 lakhs in 1905-1906.

59. The total value of the coasting trade of the province rose by 22 per cent. from 15 to 18·3 crores, imports contributing 9·6 crores and exports 8·7 crores. **Coasting Trade.**

60. The imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal and other provinces amounted in the year to 81 crores, as compared with 76 crores in the previous year. Jute, raw (24·17 crores), jute, manufactured (5·79 crores), rice (5·17 crores), coal (4·76 crores), opium (4·49 crores) and hides and skins (4·2 crores) were the principal articles of this trade. The rest of Bengal received goods valued at more than 13½ crores from other provinces, an advance of 4½ crores on last year's figures; and exported goods valued at 8·79 crores, chiefly to the adjoining provinces of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the United Provinces. **Rail and River-borne Trade.**

Exports from Calcutta to the Bengal mufassal and to other provinces were valued at 51 crores, as compared with 43 crores in the preceding year. The principal articles of export were cotton goods (19·41 crores), metals, chiefly iron and steel (5·11 crores), food-grains (4·9 crores), sugar, refined and unrefined (3·33 crores), oils (2·17 crores), and salt (2·14 crores).

BUILDINGS.

61. The most important Imperial Works in hand during the year were:— **Imperial Works.**

(*a*) Pusa Agricultural College.

(*b*) Improvements in the Paper Currency office.

(*c*) Additions to the Viceregal Buildings, Calcutta.

Good progress was made in all of these.

62. Demands were made on the department by the Jail, Police and Educational authorities. Their requirements were complied with as far as possible. Shelters for witnesses and others attending mufassal courts have been erected in certain districts. In Calcutta and Howrah, as well as in the mufassal, various extensions to Medical buildings, hospitals and dispensaries were in hand. Steps to construct or acquire houses for Government officials of all grades were taken in various places. **Provincial Works.**

Progress was made with the scheme of preservation of the Jagamohon Temple at Kanarak.

COMMUNICATIONS.

63. In the district of Darjeeling the improvement of the pony track along the Ranjit Valley from the Tista to the Manjitar bridge was completed. **Communications.**

Portions of the Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road, an important thoroughfare connecting Sambalpur with the rest of the Orissa Division, were improved in the Cuttack district.

In the district of Sambalpur the improvement of the first section of the Bargarh-Bolangir road was completed, and that of the Cuttack road was commenced.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

64. In the Darjeeling Municipality and in Kurseong, some of the drains were improved so as to make them fit to carry sullage water. **Miscellaneous Public Improvements.**

Good progress was made with the construction of a reservoir tank near Observatory Hill in the town of Angul, and reservoir tanks were also constructed in the Reserve Forests of Angul.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

65. There are seven Light Railways in the province which are of local importance, and are in some measure under the control of this Government. The larger railway systems are administered by the Railway Board and the Government of India.

Mileage.

66. The total mileage of railways in this province on the 31st April 1907 was 4,119 miles. During the year 238 miles were opened, 193¾ miles on the standard gauge and 44¼ on the metre gauge.

Lines transferred.

67. The Bengal Duars Railway was transferred to the administrative control of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Surveys.

68. There are no main lines under survey in this province, but the East Indian Railway, the Bengal and North-Western Railway and the Eastern Bengal State Railway have surveys in progress for branch lines. The survey of the Howrah-Ampta line from Autpur to Champadanga was completed. Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. have submitted proposals for a Light Railway from Dehri to Akbarpur in the Shahabad district.

Light Railways.

69. It is expected that extensions of the Buktiarpur-Behar Light Railway to Silao and the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway to Taki and Hoseinabad will be shortly undertaken.

CANALS.

Irrigation.

70. The Major Irrigation works in Bengal are of two classes:—

I.—Productive works. | II.—Protective works.

Productive works.

The Productive works comprise the Orissa, Midnapore, Hijili Tidal and Sone Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only; while the others provide both for irrigation and navigation. The total area irrigated by these canals during the year 1906-1907 was 891,815 acres, or 79,607 acres more than in the previous year, due to an increase in the areas irrigated from the Orissa and Sone Canals.

Receipts.

71. The total receipts during the year from irrigation, navigation and miscellaneous sources aggregated Rs. 22,88,509, or Rs. 1,54,663 more than the receipts for the previous year.

Protective works.

72. The protective works are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. The latter canal, a small work, deriving its supply from the Lal Bakeya river in the Champaran district, has been nearly completed and is in use. The area irrigated in 1906-1907 was 9,220 acres. The progress of work on the Tribeni Canal, though rather better than in the previous year, was still slow. With favourable conditions during the current year 1907-1908, it may be possible to open the first 40 miles of this Canal in June 1908.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

Embankments and Drainage.

73. The total length of the flood embankments maintained during the year was nearly the same as in the previous year, viz. 2,141½ miles. The total expenditure incurred on embankments and drainage works was Rs. 8,92,659, of which Rs. 3,58,869 were spent on embankments.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

74. The financial settlement with the Government of India was revised in consequence of the establishment of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a new *quasi*-permanent settlement came into force on the 1st April 1906. The proportionate allotment of the various heads of revenue between the Imperial and the Provincial Government was revised, the general result being to improve to some extent the financial position of the Local Government. **Provincial Settlement.**

The Imperial receipts in this Province were slightly less than in the previous year, owing to this readjustment. The amount expended on Imperial account was slightly higher than last year's figures.

LAND REVENUE.

75. The receipts from this head are shared with the Imperial Government. This Province now keeps the entire revenue derived from Government estates and half that from other estates, and it has to defray all the expenditure connected therewith, except that for large survey and settlement operations. **Land Revenue.**

During the year the collections of Land Revenue were extremely good, and the outstanding balances and remissions stood at the lowest figure they have been known to reach. Over two hundred and eighty-seven lakhs were collected, out of which the Imperial Government received one hundred and eleven lakhs.

CUSTOMS AND TRADE.

76. Imperial revenues received over 180 lakhs net from this source. There has been a decline in the amount received for Customs dues during the year, directly attributable to the reduced imports of foreign merchandise, more especially of cotton goods and Government stores. The aggregate value of the imports and exports is very largely in excess of that for the previous year; this increase is due to the greatly enhanced value of jute and jute products exported. **General results.**

77. The testing of cotton yarns at the port of importation, which had been done away with in the previous year, was reintroduced. A large number of cases of false trade descriptions were dealt with under this Act. Japanese firms were conspicuous by their attempts to pass off soap and perfumery as of French, English or American origin; and they even sent stocks of cigarettes marked *Swadeshi* in Bengali, though in English the country of origin was named. **Merchandise Marks Act.**

OPIUM.

78. The receipts derived from opium are wholly Imperial. During the year steps were taken, in accordance with the orders of the Secretary of State, to reduce the total area of poppy cultivation in the Bihar and Benares Agencies. The total area settled for the season **Statistics.**

amounted to 952,013 bighas, viz., 320,781 bighas in Bihar and 631,232 bighas in the Benares Agency. The areas, however, actually sown with poppy (inclusive of failures) in 1906-1907 were 296,237 bighas in Bihar and 632,401 in Benares. As compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in cultivation in the two agencies of 96,478 bighas. Owing to the constant advance in the price of labour and in the value of crops other than opium, the raiyats in some places were unwilling to give up their best lands for poppy on the ground that the fixed price of opium is not sufficient to make the cultivation profitable. The weather conditions in both agencies were most unfavourable: as a result, the average consistence of the outturn of the Benares Agency was again low.

The total quantity of provision opium manufactured during the season 1906-1907 amounted to 38,125 chests. When to this is added the number of chests remaining from the stock of 1905-1906, a total of 72,932 chests is obtained. Besides this quantity, however, there were more than 36,000 maunds of unmanufactured opium in the vats of the Patna and Ghazipur Factories.

The average price realized for a chest of opium during the calendar years 1906 and 1907 was Rs. 1,370 and Rs. 1,372, respectively. The net revenue derived from opium during the season 1906-1907 was over four hundred and eighty-one lakhs.

An improved method of extracting opium alkaloids was devised during the year by Professor Dunston of the Imperial Institute, and excellent results are anticipated from this new method.

SALT.

Duty.

79. The most important administrative change made during the year was the abolition of the Salt Rawana system which had long hampered trade and restricted the consumption of salt. Another important change was the reduction in duty on salt from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund which came into force on the 20th March 1907. From that date to the end of the financial year, the clearances of salt from bond for consumption reached a very high daily average. Salt is sold in Calcutta, exclusive of duty, at about 8 annas a maund wholesale. In the districts the wholesale price, inclusive of duty, averages Rs. 2-10 per maund. The average retail price is about Rs. 3-4 a maund.

Revenue.

80. The net revenue derived from salt, which is wholly Imperial, was nearly one hundred and fifty-seven lakhs.

EXCISE.

Revenue.

81. The net revenue from Excise was over one hundred and fifty-three lakhs: half of this goes to Provincial and half to Imperial revenues.

82. Among the administrative changes which took effect during the year may be mentioned the extension to the districts of Darjeeling, Murshidabad, Jessore and Khulna of the contract system of supplying country spirits, and the enhancement, with effect from the 2nd January 1907, of the duty on country rum to the tariff rate of Rs. 7 per

gallon L. P. The prohibition of the sale of intoxicants of all kinds to children under 14 years of age and the issue of excise licenses for the sale of medicated liquors are important reforms which were introduced during the year. At the suggestion of this Government, the Government of India issued orders prohibiting the bringing by sea or by land into British India of cocaine by means of the post and restricting its importation by any other means to persons specially permitted by the Local Government.

STAMPS.

83. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,42,36,693, against Rs. 1,41,83,281 in the previous year. The increase was wholly under non-judicial stamps. There was a considerable decrease in the sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps, which occurred mainly in Calcutta, and is attributed partly to the smaller amount of duty paid in cases of probates and letters of administration, and partly to the abolition of salt rawanas which required the levy of a court-fee duty. There was a marked increase in the number of prosecutions instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act. Statistics.

INCOME TAX.

84. The total collections on account of tax during the year showed an increase of Rs. 2,09,370, or 4·7 per cent., over those of the preceding year. The increase occurred under the four main classes, viz., "salaries," "companies," "securities," and "other sources of income." The final demand for the year showed an increase of Rs. 1,91,189, which was chiefly contributed by Calcutta and was due to the expansion of railway traffic and the prosperous condition of the town. Statistics.

FORESTS.

85. Half of the net revenue from Forests is a Provincial asset and half goes to Imperial. During the year every Forest Division but one showed a profit on its working. The net revenue was nearly five lakhs. Forests.

MINOR HEADS.

86. Reference to the tabular statements in Chapter V of this Report will show the Imperial receipts and expenditure under various minor heads. Minor Heads.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

87. The gross valuation for assessment of these cesses, in the districts in which they are levied, amounts to Rs. 12,67,31,262. They were levied as usual at the maximum rate of one anna per rupee, and the total demand was Rs. 82,82,702. The amount collected was Rs. 69,56,766, or 99·2 per cent. of the current demand. The remissions were in all Rs. 1,12,743, and the outstanding balance stood at Rs. 13,48,585. Collections.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.

88. The year was far from healthy. The deaths totalled 1,823,243, the number of births being 1,885,752. The balance in favour of the natural increase of population is very small, not quite 1·25 per cent. The birth-rate was below, and the death-rate above, the quinquennial average.

89. As usual, the deaths from "fever" (under which elastic term many other diseases than malarial fever are included) were far greater in number than those from all other causes combined. Cholera comes next, the ravages of small-pox and plague accounting for but a small number of deaths in comparison.

Prevention of Malaria.

90. The Committee that was appointed in March 1906 to enquire into the drainage conditions of the Presidency Division and their connection with the prevalence of malaria completed their enquiries during the year, but their report was not received till after the close of the year. The report contains much valuable information and many practical suggestions. For want of sufficient data, however, the Committee have not been able to arrive at any definite conclusions in regard to the connection between defects of drainage and the prevalence of malarial fever. They have, therefore, recommended that further enquiry of a systematic and organized character should be made regarding the local sanitary conditions and the existing obstructions to drainage, in order to determine as accurately as possible the incidence of malarial fever, the causes to which it is attributable, and the measures necessary for its prevention. Steps will be taken towards this end.

Anti-malaria operations, consisting chiefly in the filling up of hollows and depressions, clearing jungles, spreading kerosine oil on the water surface of all foul tanks and cesspools, and the free distribution of quinine, were carried on during the year at the towns of Ranaghat in the district of Nadia, Berhampore in the district of Murshidâbad, Jagdispur in the district of Shahabad, and Mahespur in the district of Jessore, but the result cannot be estimated yet.

Steps are being taken to collect accurate statistics as to the prevalence of fever in places where drainage works are either in progress or about to be undertaken, in order to demonstrate whether any marked improvement is caused by such works.

Tuberculosis.

91. A phthisical ward for patients in the incipient stages of consumption has been opened in connection with the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium at Darjeeling, but the Civil Surgeon of the district and the Medical Officer of the Institution have been instructed to see that only such cases are admitted as are likely to be benefited by the change to the hills, and are not a source of danger to the public.

Plague.

92. There was a marked decrease in the mortality from plague during 1906, the total number of deaths recorded being 59,619, against 126,084 in the previous year. Of the total number of deaths, 15,957,

of 26·76 per cent., occurred in towns, and 43,662, or 73·26 per cent., in rural areas. As usual the districts of the Patna Division suffered most. The disease was most prevalent from January to April, the climax being reached in March.

Of the many measures that have been suggested and taken from time to time for combating plague, the evacuation of infected houses, inoculation and the destruction of rats have shown the best results; but for many and obvious reasons none of these measures admit of general application: in the present state of public feeling they must necessarily be restricted to particular localities or to a limited section of the people. In the small Municipality of Jagdispur, in the Shahabad district, a systematic and thorough trial was made of the value of rat extermination, which provided valuable evidence of the efficacy of such a measure within a restricted area, and so long as the operations are carried on in a thorough manner under reliable supervision; but the result only throws into relief the impracticability of giving effect to similar measures over the whole area, both urban and rural, infected with plague, or of continuing them in an efficient manner throughout the cycle of an epidemic. In spite of much careful research into the etiology and epidemiology of plague, opinion is still far from unanimous as to the actual cause of the disease and the channel or channels of human infection.

EMIGRATION.

93. Seven Colonial Emigration Agencies were at work during the year, six representing the British Colonies and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The number of emigrants requisitioned and despatched shows a considerable increase over the figures of the previous year. As usual recruitment was most vigorous in the United Provinces, which supplied 75 per cent. of the emigrants. The largest number of emigrants went to Natal. Over 14 lakhs of rupees were sent back to India from that colony by money-order during the year. Returning emigrants brought back over nine lakhs of rupees, the average being Rs. 159.

Colonial Emigration.

The general unhealthiness of the year caused an increase in the amount of sickness and mortality over the previous year. A considerable number of would-be emigrants were rejected as physically unfit.

The Emigration Fund closed with an appreciable surplus.

94. The number of emigrants recruited for Assam on the other hand showed a considerable falling off, only 24,503 embarking at Goalundo, as against 33,949 in the previous year. These emigrants come chiefly from Bengal, Madras and the Central Provinces, and the decrease in numbers is undoubtedly due to the increasing demand for labour nearer home. Grave abuses were reported to have arisen in the Ranchi and Sambalpur districts, especially in connection with recruitment from the neighbouring Native States. Orders have recently issued, which will, it is believed, check these illegalities. There was no improvement in the financial position of the Inland Labour Transport Fund.

Inland Emigration.

The most satisfactory feature of the year's working was the decrease in the number of criminal cases connected with emigration. Although many offences necessarily pass undetected, the figures may be taken as an indication that malpractices are gradually become less frequent.

Several reforms based on the recommendations of the recent Committee were introduced either during the year or shortly after its close, notably the prohibition of free recruiting under section 92 of the Act throughout the province and of all recruitment by contractors in the districts of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions. Important concessions in connection with *sardari* recruiting were also granted to the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

95. The Eden Sanitarium continues to do good work, and the addition of the Hospital Section has added considerably to its usefulness. The number of patients admitted during the year was 344, against 305 in the previous year. Notwithstanding the increase in the number of patients, however, there was a serious falling off in receipts, which is said to be due to the average period of stay of each patient being shorter than usual. The financial position of the Sanitarium has not been satisfactory for some time past, and Government has had to give assistance in the shape of grants-in-aid.

Lunatic Asylums.

96. The total number of lunatics in the several asylums at the close of the year 1906 was 836, against 844 at the close of 1905. The health of the inmates was not good, 850 cases having been admitted to hospital, against 576 in the previous year. The total death-rate on the daily average strength was 10·27 per cent. against 9·19 in 1905. Bowel-complaints and tuberculosis were the diseases most prevalent. To combat the latter disease, segregation and open-air treatment are enforced. The scale of diet for the lunatics was improved at considerable cost. The Cuttack Asylum was closed during the year, and its inmates were transferred to the Central Asylum at Berhampore. The scheme for the establishment of Central Asylums both for Europeans and for Indians at Ranchi is being proceeded with, and revised plans for the buildings are now under consideration. When these are constructed and ready for use, the present Asylums at Bhowanipur, Berhampore and Patna will be closed.

Calcutta Medical Institutions and mufassal dispensaries.

97. Important structural improvements in the large hospitals in Calcutta were in progress during the year. The improvements already effected have brought these institutions more into line with modern requirements, and added greatly to their general efficiency. The number of patients treated in all the Hospitals in Calcutta was 28,136 indoor and 271,078 outdoor, against 27,836 and 268,792, respectively, in the previous year. The nursing arrangements at the several institutions were generally satisfactory, but more nurses are required both at the Presidency General and the Medical College Hospital. Proposals for increasing the staff of nurses are under consideration.

A separate Medical Officer as Police Surgeon was sanctioned during the year. This officer has relieved the Superintendent of the Campbell Hospital of the charge of the Police Hospital, thus giving him more time to devote to his own institution.

Small-pox, cholera and plague were prevalent in Calcutta during the year, and a large percentage of such cases found their way to the hospitals; but by far the largest number of patients treated in the hospitals were suffering from fevers, especially of the malarial type.

There was an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis treated, which indicates that this disease is more prevalent in Calcutta than is generally supposed.

The number of mufassal dispensaries at the beginning of 1906 was 560. During that year 27 new dispensaries were opened, and 9 of those already existing were closed, leaving 578 at the close of the year. The numbers of indoor and outdoor patients treated were 61,617 and 3,874,079, against 57,361 and 3,672,114, respectively, in 1905. The figures indicate the growing appreciation on the part of the general public of the benefits derived from these institutions. Much has been done to increase the popularity and usefulness of the hospitals and dispensaries, and in many cases separate pauper wards have been constructed. The system of deputing Medical Officers to visit outlying markets for the purpose of affording medical relief has been attended with good results.

SANITATION.

98. Considerable attention was paid to sanitation during the year, and many useful works, chiefly connected with the improvement of water supply and drainage, were carried out in the several districts by Municipalities and District Boards, as well as by Government and by private individuals. The sanitation of villages was undertaken by some of the District Boards with satisfactory results. Sanitation.

Special attention was directed to the management of septic-tank installations in factories, and rules for the purpose were framed. The effluent of these tanks is sterilized by the chlorine process which has been found to render it innocuous.

A separate laboratory for chemical and bacteriological investigations has been established in connection with the Sanitary Department.

VACCINATION.

99. The work done by the Vaccination Department compares favourably with that of the previous year. In order to improve the backward state of vaccination in the district of Puri, the number and pay of the vaccinators employed in the district have been increased. Antiseptic vaccination was introduced throughout the Province, and on the whole the results appear to have been satisfactory. Vaccination.

The rules for licensed vaccinators were revised during the year, with the object of securing the enlistment of a better class of men in future as vaccinating and inspecting officers.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

100. A scheme for the increase of the number of Inspectors from 6 to 12 and of Assistant Inspectors from 5 to 11 was sanctioned during the year, but has not yet been brought into full effect. The Revised General.

Regulations of the University were promulgated in August 1906, bringing with them enormously increased responsibilities both as regards the Education Department and the proprietors and managers of private colleges and schools. The educational problem of the day is how to find the funds necessary to meet those responsibilities.

Primary Education.

101. The number of pupils in primary schools continues to increase satisfactorily. Upper primary and middle vernacular schools are, however, declining in popularity. The scheme introduced in 1905-1906 for the building of village school-houses has proved only a very qualified success.

The expenditure on primary education from General Revenues was greater by one and-a-half lakhs of rupees than in 1905.

Female Education.

102. As regards female education, there has been a steady advance, but the difficulty of obtaining female teachers and, in a lesser degree, of inducing parents to send their girls to school is a continual bar to real progress.

Technical Education.

103. As regards technical education, the Sibpur Engineering College has continued its excellent work, and the mining classes recently opened have proved successful and useful.

In other respects, however, though views have solidified and aims been concentrated, little real progress is reported.

Muhammadan Education

104. There was an increase of 9·3 per cent. in the number of Muhammadan boys attending school, as compared with the previous year; but the proportion of Muhammadan boys under instruction is still unduly low, and special inspection and special grants to *maktabs* have been found necessary in order to foster and encourage Muhammadan education.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

General.

105. The number of boys sent to Reformatory schools in the year 1906-1907 was 144 as against 95 in 1905-1906, and the number of punishments inflicted has also largely increased. Primary education has received considerable attention, and new schemes are under consideration, calculated to effect improvements in this direction. Gymnastics, drill, games and the band at Alipore are among the opportunities for recreation provided.

Manual training.

106. At Hazaribagh agriculture is the chief work in which training is given. The object of the industrial training given at Alipore is not fully attained, as less than one-third of the boys follow the trade they have been taught on leaving. Fewer boys were released on license, with more satisfactory results than hitherto, as out of 72 so released only four were sent back to the school for misconduct.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Publications.

107. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1906 was 3,440 against 2,800 in the previous year; of the total, 2,347 were books and 1,093 periodicals. The increase is largely attributed to better registration, but there is still room for improvement in this respect. The drama, fiction, philosophy, religion and politics are all well represented; and there is evidence of the growth of a new spirit of historical and critical research.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

108. A distinct step in advance was taken during the year, the Secretary of State having sanctioned the reorganization of the Department on a permanent footing and under more favourable conditions. **Reorganization.**

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT.

109. Various analyses for the Customs Department and the Port Commissioners were carried out. Samples of water and milk were frequently tested, and nearly half the samples of milk were found to be adulterated. **Analyses.**

110. In medico-legal cases, an important possible source of error was detected. Arsenic was found in very small quantities mixed with another poison. The yellow wax-cloth in which the specimens were forwarded for examination was examined, and it was found that arsenic was used in its preparation. Such cloth will not be used in future for packing in medico-legal cases. **Medico-legal cases.**

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

111. The Bengal Veterinary College is developing rapidly. The Bacteriological Laboratory has been completed, and other projects are under consideration. The extension of the Glanders and Farcy Act to Calcutta and the suburbs has added considerably to the work of the Principal. **Bengal Veterinary College.**

112. The Belgachia Infirmary is growing in popularity. There is a steady growth in the number of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries in the mufassal. The number of cases treated shows a marked increase. Rinderpest inoculation continues to make satisfactory progress. **Dispensaries.**

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, CALCUTTA.

113. The number of visitors to the Gardens continues to increase. The scheme for extending them by taking in part of the ground of the Kidderpore Orphanage has not yet been given effect to. **Number of Visitors.**

PART II



THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1906-1907.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1906-1907.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES; SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II PAGES 1—160, OR THE VOLUME ENTITLED

CHAPTERS OF STANDARD INFORMATION, PAGES 1—160.

Changes in the Administration.

During the year, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Andrew Fraser, went on leave, the Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir Lancelot) Hare being appointed to officiate for him. Consequent on the resignation by Sir J. Bampfylde Fuller of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir Lancelot) Hare was appointed to that position, and the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, officiated as Lieutenant-Governor till the return of Sir Andrew Fraser in October 1906. Changes.

2. The redistribution of the Patna Division into two Commissionerships is still awaiting decision.

3. A substantial increase of 78 appointments in the cadre of the Provincial and of 25 in the Subordinate Executive Service was sanctioned early in 1906 by the Secretary of State, and steps are being taken to recruit gradually the necessary number of officers.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

SIKKIM.

4. The entire charge of Sikkim has been taken over from the Government of Bengal by the Government of India with effect from the 1st April 1906. No review of its administration will appear in future in this report. Sikkim.

COOCH BEHAR.

[See the Annual Administration Report of the State for 1906-07.]

[Area—1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population 566,974. Revenue, Rs. [illegible] No change in the ruling chief since last year. [illegible] Cooch Behar. [illegible] Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain.]

5. The Heir-Apparent, Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain, was appointed an Extraordinary Member of the State Council in February 1907. Work of the State Council. Judicial.

The Council held 25 sittings as in the previous year. It had 71 cases to deal with, and, at the end of the year, 14 were pending.

Legislative.

6. On this side of the Council 33 meetings were held. Nine Acts were passed dealing with the following matters; Companies, Law of Evidence, Chaukidari, Small Cause Courts, Hindu Wills, Probate, Vaccination, Succession and the Cooch Behar Town Committee. A Bill dealing with the Penal Code was introduced.

Executive. General.

7. The Council dealt with many matters of importance in its three subdivisions of executive activity, namely (1) General, (2) Financial, (3) the State Railway and Miscellaneous Departments. The Victoria College building was completed and the properties known as "Lansdowne" and "Silver springs" were acquired at Darjeeling to ensure privacy. Two holders of State scholarships were undergoing a course of technical training, one in Japan and the other at Leeds in England. Experiments with tobacco were continued, and negotiations with a French company that proposes to start a cigarette factory near Calcutta were entered into, with the object of securing a market for the State tobacco and a school of practical training in the industry for such natives of India as His Highness the Maharaja may nominate. As last year cigarettes were imported into Calcutta to the value of almost twenty-three lakhs; there is apparently an ample field for the operations of this Company.

The settlement of the town of Cooch Behar has been completed. The area dealt with was over ten square miles. The assessment has increased from about eleven thousand to seventeen thousand rupees. The demarcation of the boundary between the State and Jalpaiguri district had been pending for a long time, and a satisfactory settlement has now been arrived at.

Floods.

8. A flood in August 1906 caused much misery, loss and inconvenience. Every subdivision suffered, the roads were damaged, and owing to the destruction of two large bridges and breaches in the railway embankment, railway communication was interrupted for four days. The jute crop escaped well. The *bitri* paddy was considerably damaged. Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans to a total of Rs. 7,500 were given to those really in need. Cholera followed on the inundation, 1,816 cases being reported. A scheme for the extensive employment of tube-wells with a view to improving the supply of water is under consideration.

Owing to the high prices obtainable for produce, the people are prosperous.

Financial.

9. The total general revenues amounting to Rs. 24¾ lakhs show an increase of over sixty-three thousand rupees on the figures of last year. The total expenditure was nearly Rs. 24¼ lakhs. Pensions and allowances to a total of Rs. 2,056 per annum were sanctioned during the year, and compensation for the dearness of food-grains was given to all State servants whose pay Rs. 50 and under.

Criminal Justice.

10. The total number of cases, 3,376, shows an increase of 47 on the total for last year. Over 72 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. There were very few grave crimes committed.

Educational.

11. At the end of the year there were 305 Primary and Secondary schools open. There were just 24 per cent. of the boys of school-going age actually under instruction. The percentages in the three neighbouring British districts are only 18, 19 and 20.

The results of the University examinations were creditable except in the B.A. examinations, in which only 16 passed out of 81 sent up. A Science course is about to be started, and provision has been made for laboratory and other equipment.

Health.

12. Generally speaking the health of the people was good. The outbreak of cholera has already been alluded to. The reported cases of malarial fever in the town show a diminution from 9,208 to 6,778. This satisfactory decrease is attributed to the action taken to improve the drainage, clear away the jungle and fill up hollows and low lands. The one regrettable feature is that in this as in the past year, the deaths in the town were more numerous than the births. Still, as the death-rate is not quite 17 per mille, it is obviously a remarkably healthy town in comparison with the British districts. The general death-rate for the whole province last year was 36·08 per mille.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Report on these States for 1906-1907 by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.]

General.

13. The two States of Seraikela and Kharsawan are administered under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. By the 1901 census their population was 141,079. Their area is 602 square miles.

Owing to insufficient rainfall the rice crop fell short of normal. Some damage from insect pests is reported to have occurred in Kharsawan. Food grains were considerably dearer than in the previous year.

Health.

14. An outbreak of cholera caused 39 deaths in Seraikela and 30 in Kharsawan. Apart from this, the health of the inhabitants was generally good and the high prices obtained for agricultural produce were beneficial. Owing to the defective agency employed, little reliance can be placed on the figures for vital statistics. The establishment of municipalities in the towns of Seraikela and Kharsawan has resulted in much improvement in their sanitation. Vaccination is progressing, and the two dispensaries do useful work. At Seraikela 1,101 out-door patients were treated during the year, and 1,500 at Kharsawan.

Police and crime.

15. The reorganization of the Seraikela police and the re-assessment of the police cess was sanctioned by Government during the year. Proposals for reorganizing the Kharsawan police are about to be submitted. An important point to be decided in this connection is the substitution of fixed pay for rent-free service grants, and an annual contribution in grain from each cultivator. There is a considerable decrease in reported crime, especially under the head of offences against property.

Fiscal.

16. As a result of the settlement operations, the assessment (including that on extensions of cultivation) has been increased in Kharsawan by 64 per cent. and in Seraikela by 56 per cent. The new rents have been accepted without demur by the raiyats. The revenue from Excise increased by Rs. 8,260 to Rs. 28,590, as the *mahua* crop was plentiful, and competition at auction sales was keen. The total revenue was in Seraikela Rs. 1,22,521 and in Kharsawan Rs. 41,912, the corresponding figures for last year being Rs. 1,05,629 and Rs. 39,255, respectively.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES, ORISSA.

[Report by the Commissioner and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, on these States for 1906-1907.]

Administrative and General.

17. This group of States, 24 in number, included in the division of Orissa, was placed formally under a Political Agent early in the year. The Political Agent was appointed with effect from 29th April. During the year, three States came under administration; two, namely, Rairakhol and Hindol, as their Chiefs died; and the third, Keonjhar, as its Chief resigned his *gadi* in favour of Government. The aggregate area of the group is 28,046 square miles, and the population is 3,173,395. The gross revenue is in round numbers Rs. 38,45,000 and the tribute payable to Government is Rs. 66,799.

Fiscal. Land.

18. There was a general improvement in the realization of the land revenue during the year; and coercive measures and sales were but rarely resorted to. The percentages of collection on demand were at a satisfactorily high level, and the arrear balances were reduced.

Settlements and revisions of assessment were in progress in various States. Some boundary disputes, one of them of over twenty years' standing, have been satisfactorily settled, and in others progress towards a settlement has been made.

The financial position of most of the States is sound. In some, reserve funds are now beginning to accumulate. In others, a system of budgets has been introduced in supersession of the cruder methods hitherto in force.

Excise.

19. The excise income has increased in 14 of the States. The number of shops and stills in the five States transferred from the Central Provinces in 1905 is being reduced to the standard of one outstill to every 30 square miles of country, or to every 10,000 of the population. There is keener com- for the shops, consequent on the reduction in number, and the is believed to be of better quality. No increasing tendency to tion to the use of liquor is noticeable.

Forests.

20. Efforts are being made, with a fair promise of success, systematically to conserve the forests. In various localities these measures met with vigorous

opposition. However, steps for proper demarcation, fire-protection and the levy of grazing fees are being pushed on. Wasteful and ruinous cutting is being checked, and skilled advisers are being trained and recruited for this service as opportunity offers.

Public Works.

21. Considerable sums were expended on Public Works, to an aggregate amount of Rs. 5,37,828. Road-making, works for irrigation and protection, tanks, various public offices, and temples are the objects to which this expenditure was devoted.

Public health.

22. The year was very healthy. Sporadic cases of cholera and cattle-disease in a non-epidemic form were reported. Vaccination is becoming widespread and even re-vaccination is making progress. Special officers have in some instances been appointed to promote this operation. The dispensaries continue to do good work. Every State except Tigiria has at least one, and they are generally well equipped and in charge of duly qualified men.

Education.

23. Progress is the dominant note in this department. The number of schools increased from 1,605 to 1,707 during the year, and the number of pupils from 38,787 to 44,277. The expenditure incurred under this heading amounted to Rs. 2,28,700. For the furtherance of primary education *pathsalas* were opened in some places among the purely agricultural population.

Police and crime.

24. There was a slight increase from 7,181 to 7,298 in the number of cases reported to the police. In one State there was an outbreak of organised dacoity, which yielded to prompt measures. With this exception, there was nothing serious in the crimes reported. Petty thefts and housebreaking are, as usual, the offences most prevalent, and those in which detection and conviction of the offenders are least frequent. In some States, the methods of thumb-impressions, criminal-portraiture and character-registers are employed. The principles underlying these methods for the repression of habitual offenders were diffused as opportunities offered. In several instances police officers were deputed for special training. The *morale* of the police force, with the exception of that of Baramba State, was satisfactory.

In the work of the Magistracy, there seems to be a distinct disinclination to use section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and a marked tendency to impose sentences of imprisonment, when a whipping would meet more suitably the circumstances of the case. On the whole, the system followed in the administration of Civil and Criminal justice is sound. It is suited to the needs of the people; it is prompt in procedure; and, judged by the appeals preferred and the results thereof, it is reliable and adequate.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1906-1907.]

Prices of food-grains.

25. During the past year, the prices of jute and food-grains reached an abnormally high level in practically every district. An enquiry into the probable causes of this was made by the Director of Agriculture under the orders of Government. It was considered, that, out of the manifold causes at work to bring about the rise in prices, the following had perhaps the most pronounced effect:—

(*a*) The harvest of food-grains in general, and of rice in particular, was considerably less than normal, for the past three years.

(*b*) Owing to the great demand for jute of late, and to its abnormally high price in 1906, very large sums of money (probably about 40 crores of rupees) were put into circulation to finance the crop in the districts. About 15 crores of that was clear profit, and, naturally, the standard of living of the people who had earned it went up considerably. Rice of better quality was in demand, and agriculturists, who had stocks of rice, were not obliged to convert them into cash to pay their rents. In spite of the high prices, the demand for cheap Burma rice was very small.

(c) There has been a general rise in the standard of living in many directions. More has been spent on clothes, shoes, umbrellas, tobacco, railway travelling, etc., and even in the poorest districts of Bihar and Chota Nagpur, rice as a food is displacing coarser grains.

(d) Owing to increased facilities for intercommunication, there is more competition among dealers on an extensive scale: and, possibly, even greater combination among them.

26. From all this it is clear that the agriculturists generally are in a highly prosperous condition. The landless labourer is generally paid in kind, and though he is the first to feel the pinch of real scarcity and famine, he is unaffected practically by the reduced purchasing power of the rupee. The so-called "bhadra lok" and those on a fixed or practically fixed income are the real sufferers under these conditions.

Wages.

27. There are signs of a general rise in wages also. An exhaustive enquiry was made into the conditions governing the supply of labour for factories. It has been found that there is no real scarcity of labour. Sometimes there is a temporary shortage, when the adults, who have emigrated, go back to their homes at some seasons of the year to aid in the heavy field work. In other cases, employers of labour are creating around the industrial centres truly industrial towns. This should secure at least a permanent nucleus of their labour force.

Emigration.

28. As hitherto, emigration continues to attract large numbers from certain tracts of this province. In spite of the disabilities attaching to natives of India in Natal, the majority of emigrants go there, and they send back large sums to their relatives. A system of State-aided emigration to Burma that had been in operation for sixteen years past came to an end during the year. Primarily it was intended to give the Bihari landless labourer a chance of acquiring a permanent means of livelihood. It was mostly from Shahabad district that the emigrants came. Now it is reported that in that district, and in fact in the Bihar districts generally, there is a tendency to a dearth of labour. The old customary rates of wages no longer attract the cooly class. This is not an unfavourable symptom, as it points to a general rise in their scale of living.

Health

29. In the paragraphs of this report that deal with Weather and Crops (Chapter IV), Condition of raiyats in Government estates (Chapter II), and Public health (Chapter VI), further details on the general condition of the people may be found. The most gloomy feature is the extensive mortality from various fevers, which are mainly preventible diseases. The question of the effect of obstructed drainage as a factor in the causation of malaria has been carefully gone into by a small committee. The most practical suggestion of their report is that it should be taught in every school throughout the province that mosquitoes transmit malaria and that quinine cures it.

Famine.

30. During the past year, in Darbhanga district, famine was declared. It was caused by extreme drought following on heavy floods. The floods ruined the rice crop in the ground. The drought prevented the *rabi* crops from giving any return Two harvests had thus failed, and there was nothing for it but to distribute gratuitous relief when needed, and to provide relief works as soon as possible.

Owing to the high floods, there was no demand for labour, and so the landless labourers were at once exposed to severe privations. Until the floods subsided, no test relief works could be opened. Immediate relief was given by sending out boats to distribute grain and cash in the submerged villages. As soon as possible kitchens were opened, and by the last week of September there were 59 at work, attended by about 48,500 persons daily. Test works were opened, and by the end of November 1906, 56,880 persons daily were in attendance at them. In March 1907 the number fell to 23,000 while the *rabi* crops was being harvested. The numbers went up again slightly in April and May, but began to fall rapidly in June with the advent of the rains. In July, the average attendance was only 6,618, and in August, the last month of the famine, only 4,817.

Persons relieved.

31. There was a large number of petty cultivators among those in attendance. Men of this class come only when the distress is very severe, and their presence is an index to its severity. The number of women was far in excess of that of men. This may be accounted for by the demand for labour in the unaffected parts of the district and by inter-district emigration.

The total expenditure on relief operations was nearly twelve lakhs. In addition to this, six and-a-half lakhs were distributed as agricultural loans to enable cultivators to purchase bullocks and seed. The average amount advanced was six rupees per head.

The districts of Saran, Champaran and Muzaffarpur also suffered to a small extent from floods. Test-works failed to attract labourers. Agricultural loans were freely distributed and relieved the distress.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1906-1907.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

32. In Chapter V, Revenue and Finance, details are given of the demand, collection and balance of general revenues for the past year. As regards the Land Revenue, the current demand for the year was just over 287 lakhs, a lakh in excess of the demand of the previous year. The total collections exceeded the current demand. The remissions and outstanding balances are now at the lowest figure ever known, the former being just over fifty thousand rupees and the latter just over six and three-quarter lakhs.

There is an increase in the total number of estates, due to new estates created by partitions, or arising from the bringing on to the revenue roll for the first time of other estates, from transfers and from new settlements of *ghatwali* and other *jagirs*.

Defaults and the Sale Laws.

33. The total number of estates now borne on the revenue rolls may be taken at 124,449. There were defaults in payment of land revenue in respect of 8,662 estates, shares or interests, which rendered them liable to be sold up. In fact, only 734 of them were actually sold for arrears amounting to Rs. 35,000. The purchase money realized was over five lakhs. On appeal, 21 sales were annulled. It is impossible to consider that the application of the "sunset law" is unsympathetic in view of the above figures. Yet a new procedure has been prescribed experimentally, to compel the Collectors in selected districts to scrutinize carefully the sale list before the estates are sold. They must consider the number of the proprietors and the complexity of the interests that have been rendered liable to sale by the perhaps wilful default of one of the co-sharers. Further, the previous history of each estate must be looked into; the amount and frequency of defaults must be taken into consideration, so as to discriminate between the estates whose proprietors are wilful or habitual defaulters, and those that have been brought to sale for a technical arrear of a few annas. All chance of hardship should be eliminated by this procedure.

Redemptions of Land Revenue.

34. The land revenue was redeemed in 395 estates during the year, the majority being petty permanently-settled holdings in Government Estates in Calcutta and Suburbs. The price paid was thirty years' purchase of the annual rental.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

35. The total receipts under this head, under which are included the revenues derived from forest lands in Government estates, amounted to Rs. 4,90,034. There is a decrease from last year's figures, but it is more apparent than real. It is under this heading that the sums recovered at the close of the survey and settlement operations are shown. During this year, the recoveries in Bihar were very small compared with those of the previous year, as no recovery operations were undertaken in Purnea district.

Sale of Government Estates.

36. Fifty-nine estates whose area is 835 acres were sold in the Burdwan, Presidency and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The total sum realized was Rs. 6,258; they are still subject to an annual payment of Rs. 1,614 as Government revenue.

Payment of Revenue by Money Orders.

37. There is an increase of nearly one lakh and-a-half in the amount of revenue and cesses remitted during the year by special revenue money orders. The actual number of these orders sent increased by more than twenty-five thousand. The average amount of each order was Rs. 7-4-9. Thus it is obviously among the smaller landlords that the system gains in popularity. Still, the total amount remitted is only just over seventeen lakhs and-a-half out of a total demand (revenue and cesses combined) of three hundred and fifty-seven lakhs.

Payment of Rent by Money Orders.

38. According to the returns furnished for Road Cess purposes, the gross rental of the Province is over 1,267 lakhs. It is impossible to say what proportion of this is realized by the landlords. The post office figures show that

just six lakhs and a quarter of rupees were remitted by special money order in payment of rent. Over 24 per cent. of them were refused, as the landlords generally regard this method of payment with disfavour, for obvious reasons. And even if the landlords accepted it, it is a pernicious system in the eyes of the *zumindari amla* who would quickly find their occupation all but gone, and their opportunities for illegal exactions greatly restricted, if it became widespread. The amount of rent remitted in this way in the Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions is very small. The system is not in force in Chota Nagpur, except as regards Government khas mahals. Its general extension to that division is under consideration. The average amount of each rent money order is nearly sixteen rupees. Thus it is clearly not the smallest and poorest raiyats who have recourse to this method. Landlords regard it sometimes as an insult to them to have rents remitted by money order, or as a treasonable act against their supremacy, just as they do when tenants deposit their rents in the civil courts.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

39. These cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the thirty districts in which the Act is in force. It has been lately extended to the Sonthal Parganas, but is not yet in force in Sambalpur, Angul and the Khond Mahals. The demand for the year was over seventy lakhs on a gross rental or valuation of over 1,267 lakhs. The collections, amounting to sixty nine lakhs and-a-half, were less than in the previous year in spite of an increase in the total demand. Some proprietors of big estates in various districts failed to pay up within the year. Their default is attributed to difficulty in realising their rents, owing to the prevalent scarcity and the high prices that ruled.

Certificate Procedure.

40. The summary procedure for the recovery of public demands, known briefly as the Certificate Procedure, was worked with vigour. Over seventy-eight thousand requisitions were filed and certificates (which are really decrees) were issued in the same number of cases. In six thousand cases objections to the demand were filed and in seven hundred and seventy cases the certificates were cancelled. That is not a large percentage of incorrect demands when the total number dealt with is considered; but no doubt the persons who had to appear and explain that the certificates were incorrectly issued would derive small consolation from a consideration of that fact.

Cess Revaluations.

41. Revaluations under the Road Cess Act were in progress on a large scale during the year in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Darbhanga, Manbhum, Palamau and Murshidabad. In nine other districts, similar operations were in progress on a less extensive scale. Various changes were prescribed in the forms and methods of revaluation. The anomalies and inadequacy of the Cess Act in certain respects have been under consideration. It is proposed, in particular, to make more direct and immediate use of the record-of-rights as prepared by the Settlement Department as the basis of the revaluation work. A draft Bill has been submitted since the close of the year.

Land Registration Act.

42. The total number of proprietary interests in land registered under this Act (Act VII of 1876 as amended) amounted to 1,033,586 at the close of the year. During the year over sixty-two thousand applications were made for registration as successors to proprietary rights by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, and of these over fifty-six thousand have been granted.

The Amending Act II of 1906.

43. There were several important changes introduced into the working of this Act by the amending Act II of 1906. Chief among them are the inclusion of executors and trustees, in the provisions relating to managers: the change in the definition of "*mauza*," and the removal from the Act of the imperative provisions prescribing how the registers, were to be kept. As in practice these clauses were found to be intolerably rigid, the Board of Revenue has now been vested with the necessary powers to prescribe rules for the due preparation of the registers and forms necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Act. In future, Register D will be the chief register and record of proprietary rights.

Power has been given to the Collector to compel minors or beneficiaries to have their names duly registered on assuming direct charge of their properties; and rules have been prescribed to enable him to comply with the following provisions of the Act, namely, to make a summary record of evidence;

to enforce the attendance of parties or the production of documents; to levy fees for certain applications, and to close separate accounts, of his own motion.

Supply of information to the Land Registration Department.

44. It is obvious that to keep the registers under the Land Registration Act up to date, it is not advisable to wait till parties apply for mutation of names of their own motion. Accordingly, steps have been taken to ensure that all transfers that come to the knowledge of Sub-Registrars, Civil Courts and the Certificate, Land Acquisition, and Revenue Sale Departments in the Collectorate shall be promptly reported to the Land Registration Department. When this department has thus before it the necessary materials for initiating proceedings, it should be in a better position than heretofore. In various districts, steps have been taken to revise and bring up to date registers that were found to be obsolete or incorrect when tested by information more accurate than that available at the time they were compiled. Settlement records and road cess revaluation returns are of primary importance in this matter, as they furnish the information which the registers of this department ought to contain, prepared independently, and on this account the more valuable for purposes of comparison, reconciliation of discrepancies, and elimination of errors.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

45. The number of these societies in existence of the end of last year was 90. During the year, 126 new societies were formed. Thus there are at present 216 societies in existence. The membership has increased largely during the year.

It cannot be said that the diffusion of the principles of self-reliance and mutual aid that underly the working of these societies is proceeding with dangerous rapidity. This is not a cause for regret. In other countries, forty or fifty years were necessary before the system flourished. At least an equivalent period will be required in India, but the result will more than repay all the fostering and anxious care that may now be required to aid in the development of these infant societies.

Grain Banks.

46. The grain banks in the Sonthal Parganas and the credit societies in the Government estates in Puri district are reported to have been of much assistance during the past year, and to be now properly understood and appreciated.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, 1906-1907.]

Outturn for the year.

47. The outturn for the year, viz., 275 square miles of triangulation for topographical work, 6,309 square miles of Traverse Survey, 1,709 square miles of Cadastral Surveys, 1,872 square miles of Record-writing and 1,591 square miles of Topographical Survey, is in each item in excess of that reported last year. The full programme has been worked up to, and it has been sometimes slightly exceeded; one case of apparent failure, viz., the Topographical Survey of a block of hills in the south of the Monghyr district, is not really what it appears to be; it was decided at a somewhat late date to cadastrally survey this area, with the result that men who were expected to be used on Topographical work had to be utilized for Traverse survey.

Administrative Changes.

48. The final handing over the cadastral work in Bengal to the Settlement Department has been accomplished; No. 4 Party (Bihar) has been broken up, and its two cadastral sections transferred, almost bodily, to the executive control of the Settlement Officer, Bihar. This change takes effect from the first day of the survey year 1907-08.

49. By order of the Surveyor-General all the records (sets up) of Traverse work, after completion, have been copied, so that each Settlement Officer may receive a copy for his own use, and so that, on the completion of the settlement operations in any district, the local authorities will have a complete record of traverse work done. Another reason for the necessity of this procedure is that the Topographical Surveyors, who will eventually revise or resurvey areas covered by revenue operations, may have, at any time, all the records which they may require.

The professional control of Bengal surveys has, from the 1st September 1907, been transferred from the Deputy Surveyor-General to the Surveyor-General.

The question of accounts has received much attention during the year; it is proposed to substitute the system of the permanent advance for that of letters of credit, it being seldom that a Survey Party in Bengal will be working far from a local treasury. An expert accountant has for some months been engaged in framing the rules which will probably lead to a change of system at the beginning of the next financial year. Even if the new system is not introduced completely, the risk there is, under the present system, of loss of Government money will be considerably reduced and work will be facilitated.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Department of Land Records for 1906-1907.]

General.

50. The activity of this department has beep very marked during the year. Settlement and Survey operations were in progress in fourteen districts belonging to the six divisions of the province. Cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing were completed for an area of 5,247 square miles. The attestation stage was completed for an area of 4,497 square miles and the completed records were finally published for an area of 4,538 square miles. Rents were settled for over seventy-two thousand tenants and the expenditure during the year by this department was over eleven and-a-half lakhs. In due course, on the conclusion of the operations, the greater part of this amount will be recovered from the landlords and tenants concerned.

Up to the present, records-of-rights have been completed for nearly 40,000 square miles, or approximately one-third of the area of the province. Of this, 4,583 square miles were completed during the past year. The average rate of progress for the past twenty-one years has been 1,869 square miles per year.

Administrative and other changes.

51. This year is noteworthy for the making over of the general control of the cadastral survey, *i.e.*, the professional survey work subsidiary to the preparation of a record of rights, to the Settlement Department. As hitherto, the traverse survey, which precedes cadastral survey, will continue to be done by the Survey of India. This alteration is in accordance with one of the recommendations made by the Survey Commission of three years ago. The system was introduced in Ranchi last year. It has worked efficiently and economically. It is being extended to the Bihar settlement with effect from the field season 1907-08.

As noted in Chapter III of this report, an Act amending the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed during the year and, as a consequence, the Government rules under the Act were revised. The Survey and Settlement Manuals also have been revised, and a Guide and Glossary to the Settlement Operations in Bihar has been completed. In addition, various subsidiary rules suited to the special conditions of each settlement were revised and approved of.

The experiment of deputing selected Munsifs for practical training as Assistant Settlement Officers has been entirely successful, and it will be continued.

Land Revenue Settlements.

52. Settlements of Land Revenue are being made in certain estates in Midnapore, Khulna and Angul districts.

Other Settlements.

53. Operations not primarily with a view to the settlement of rent and revenue are in progress on a large scale in Bihar, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur.

Monghyr.

54. The progress in all of them was highly satisfactory. The preliminary records were completed for an area of 1,290 square miles in Monghyr district. Attestation and the preparation of the record for final publication was completed for over 1,100 square miles in South Bhagalpur. The chief feature of the work was the universality of illegal enhancements of rent. Not merely when estates changed hands, but frequently in addition periodical revisions of the rent-roll were made every five or seven years, and each revision was made the occasion of fresh exactions. It is perfectly obvious that the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act have been a dead letter in this area for over twenty years. The Civil Courts have been resorted to as a means of procuring the

Bhagalpur.

appearance of a legal sanction for utterly illegal enhancements. An ingenious attempt at this is described in the report.

A record of irrigation rights has also been prepared. At present this does not attract much attention on the part either of the landlords or of the tenants.

55. In Purnea, the attestation of 486 squrae miles practically completed the field work in this district. There was also a heavy programme of case-work under sections 105-106 to deal with. Under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, 4,661 cases involving 55,664 tenants were disposed of. Under section 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, 1,199 disputes were decided. There is still a small balance of cases under both heads for disposal. The enhancements of rent allowed were always moderate. Purnea.

No recovery of costs was undertaken owing to the damage caused by floods. A cost-rate of six annas per acre has been approved of for the whole district.

56. The settlement in this district has been in progress since 1898. The survey work was all along under the control of the Settlement Officer—the system now adopted also for the Bihar and Ranchi settlements. During the year 754 square miles were cadastrally surveyed, and for 84 square miles attestation was completed. The cadastral survey area was scattered over four subdivisions. This rendered organization and supervision difficult. It is interesting to note that maps of the settlement of this area made in 1888-92 were available: they were used to decide boundary disputes and as a basis for the soil classification. The classification all round is higher now than then. Sonthal Parganas.

There was also a heavy list of virtual title-suits under section 24 of Regulation III of 1872 to dispose of. During this and the previous year, 22,868 suits were dealt with. The results of the appeals filed were satisfactory.

57. The main part of the programme for the year was cadastral survey and khanapuri of 864 square miles; and attestation and completion of the records for 1,618 square miles. The whole programme was completed. The cadastral portion was completed rapidly owing to excellent organization. Disputes were not so numerous as previously. Chota Nagpur. Ranchi.

The attestation work revealed that the relations between landlord and tenant were generally unsatisfactory. Rent and predial services and conditions were the questions at issue, and there are faults on both sides. As regards status, nearly 20 per cent. of the raiyati tenancies are non-occupancy. This cannot be considered a desirable state of things, and it is hoped that the proposed Amendment Act when passed will improve matters. The non-occupancy raiyat has to pay much higher rents than the occupancy raiyat, as the latter was entitled to *pattas* at a fair and equitable rate, the rents of the former being subject to agreement only. The incidence of rent varies from four annas to five rupees an acre.

58. The settlement of the Dhalbum estate in Singhbhum has been undertaken as this estate has just come under the Court of Wards. The proprietor had leased out his estate for 25 years on terms that left no margin to the lessees for making a profit, except by exacting utterly illegal and oppressive enhancements of rent. To prevent this, the present operations have been initiated. It has been remarked elsewhere in this report that relations between the tenants and the lessees are not friendly, as evidenced by the numbers of tenants who are depositing their rents in Court. The cadastral survey and preliminary records were completed for 587 square miles. Singhbhum.

The Feudal States of Seraikela and Kharsawan were also under settlement. The work has been completed. A fuller account of these States is given in Chapter I of this Report. There was a very considerable increase in the rent as a result of the settlement, and it has been accepted without objection by the tenants.

59. Minor operations for small areas were in progress in several other districts. The most interesting was that of the Beldanga Estate in Murshidabad. As the tenants were dissatisfied with the revision of the rent-roll made as far back as 1891-95, they deposited more than half the estimated cost of the operations, and prayed for the preparation of a record-of rights. On full investigations being made, it was found that the enhancements made at the Minor Settlements.

revision in 1891-95 were all illegal. The costs are being recovered, half from the tenants and half from the proprietor.

Revision and Maintenance of the Records.

60. In last year's Report a sketch of the experimental revision work in Balasore was given. A scheme for the initial revision of the records of the Orissa settlement, as a preliminary to their continuous maintenance, was finally sanctioned by the Secretary of State in October 1906. This decision to continuously maintain the records is a momentous one, as it means that ultimately the rights of landlords and tenants in every *dhur* of land, and the legality of every pice paid as rent in this province, will be made the subject of an annual scrutiny. The area of the province is over 148,000 square miles: the gross rental is over Rs. 12,67,00,000: these figures are enough to show the magnitude of the operations now undertaken.

Soon after a beginning was made, it became fairly evident that the elaborate comparison with the records of ten years ago would cause the operations to be very much more protracted and more expensive than provided for in the estimates. Instead of 20,000 plots attested per month, as estimated, the outturn was only 9,500. Later on, proposals were approved of to restrict attention to essential changes and to avoid altering the old record where non-essential changes only were concerned. Fresh rules, framed in the light of the experience already acquired, have been approved of; and it remains now to be seen what will be the result of their operation in the field season 1907-08. The entire cost of this revision will be borne by Government.

The "Mutation offices" established under the Land Records Maintenance Act, VII of 1895, show a smaller number of mutations recorded than last year's figures. The Act continues to be a failure.

The mutations recorded in Government and Wards' Estates rarely approach the standard of 8 per cent. of the total number of tenancies fixed in 1903. It is safe to conclude that the tenant will not take the trouble to come to an office to report mutations, and that to have them recorded, a system of village to village investigation is necessary.

Utilization of Land Records.

61. It is generally reported that fuller use is being made of these records. In nearly all Registration offices, survey plot numbers must be mentioned in documents presented for registration. The deputation of Munsifs for settlement training is likely to give Civil Court officials a better idea of the value that should be attached to entries in the records.

Boundary Marks.

62. A scheme for the continuous maintenance of boundary marks is under consideration. The question is receiving attention in the Orissa revisional work, and the experience acquired therein will be of great value. Wherever a systematic examination of trijunction and other boundary marks has been made, it has usually been found that numbers of them have disappeared.

Waste Lands.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1906-1907.]

Waste land leases.

63. There is no change in the number of current leases in the 24-Parganas and Khulna tracts in the Sundarbans. The number still stands at 115, but the rent payable in respect of them increased by thirteen hundred rupees. There was a reduction in the number of leases held by large capitalists, as 8 of them were determined for failure to comply with the clearing conditions. There was no change in the number of leases held by small capitalists. Owing to the suspension for reconsideration of the existing rules governing the grant of leases of waste lands, no new leases were issued during the year either to small or large capitalists.

Reclamation.

64. Owing to cholera breaking out in November 1906, 500 coolies, recruited for cutting, clearing and embanking in Frasergunj, refused to come, and owing to the lateness of the season, no others could be procured in their stead. Jungle was cut and cleared over nearly three square miles; six miles of protective embankments were constructed. Roads and old embankments were repaired; two tanks were excavated, to provide a supply of drinking water, and a golf course was laid down.

Various experiments with English vegetable seeds, Singapore cocoanut seedlings, pine-apple shoots and plantain stocks were made, with hopeful

results. A steamer has been subsidised to make trips to Fraserganj from Calcutta every week end. It is expected that in time these trips will become very popular.

65. There are some 34 estates in the Sunderbans resumed by Government for various causes. The condition of some of them is not quite satisfactory, as no proper record exists to show their financial position or the relations existing between Government as landlord and the resident tenants. Some of them pay rent; others have lost their crops from salt water, and others pay nothing at all. Fuller investigations are being made with a view to improving them. Sunderbans resumed estates.

Government Estates.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1906-1907.]

66. The total number of estates under direct management during the year, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 1,980, with a current demand of nearly twenty-eight lakhs. The percentage of cost of management to current demand was 7·68. Number and management.

Some slight changes in the administration of these estates were given effect to during the year. The Subdivisional Officer at Contai was given powers of supervision over certain khas mahal tahsildars in Tamluk and Contai. No change was made in the existing system at Sambalpur. Rents are collected there in some villages by headmen, with a remuneration by commission of three annas in the rupee. In other villages, the local tahsildar collects them.

67. A grant of over three lakhs was allotted by the Board of Revenue for management, agricultural experiments, agricultural and miscellaneous improvements, and sanitary improvements. About Rs. 17,000 could not be spent in the Sonthal Parganas because the rates provided in the sanctioned estimates were below market rates for similar work. The consequence was that there was no margin left for the contractors, and neither coolies nor contractors were forthcoming It is proposed to scrutinize the rates and to revise them if necessary. The chief purposes to which the grant was applied are tanks and wells, drainage, irrigation and embankments, roads and bridges and tree-planting. Improvement of these estates.

68. A grant of half a lakh was made for education, and it was all expended. Except in Chota Nagpur, there was an increase in the number of children attending school in each division. This was most marked in Midnapore and Darjeeling. In some districts there was a decrease, notably in Singhbhum. The cause assigned for this is the high price of food-grains. This is open to question. In any case, the statistics of attendance are not always above suspicion. Education.

69. The grant by Government for this object was sixty-four thousand rupees; actually, one lakh thirteen thousand rupees were spent, the difference being made up by contributions from Municipalities, District Boards and Local Funds. Roads and Communications.

70. The conditions prevailing during the year were not very favourable to the agricultural population. Scarcity, high prices, unequal distribution of the rainfall and partial failures in certain local areas are reported. Thus, from the Burdwan Division in district Birbhum, prices were high and the upland paddy failed. The high prices are said to have been of assistance to the cultivators in Midnapore, as they were able to pay their rents more easily, where the crops gave a fair return. But in one estate in Tamluk the lands were not cultivated for want of protective embankments. Condition of Government Raiyats. Burdwan Division.

71. In the Presidency Division, the raiyats of the 24-Parganas had not recovered from the failure of the previous year's crops. In Nadia and Khulna the crops failed more or less completely. Agricultural loans were given, and in one estate, earthwork was provided, to assist those most in need. On the other hand, the raiyats in Jessore were much benefited by the prevailing high prices for jute. Presidency Division.

72. In the Patna Division, Darbhanga district suffered greatly from floods. Cattle-disease broke out in an estate in Patna district and the *diara* estates suffered considerably from a sudden rise in the river. In Gaya, the want of moisture in December and January, and the untimely excess of rain in February and March, injured the *rabi* crops greatly. Owing to the prevailing scarcity Patna Division

in Darbhanga, agricultural loans were given out and the collection of rents was stopped from September 1906.

Bhagalpur Division.

73. In the Bhagalpur Division, the *bhadoi* crops of the Government estates in Monghyr district were practically ruined by floods. The *rabi* crops fetched good prices, and this compensated to some extent for the losses earlier in the year. In Madhipura subdivision (Bhagalpur district), there were unusually heavy floods in this as in the preceding year. In the Sonthal Parganas, the poor harvests of the year 1905-06 left the people badly off in the early part of 1906-07. Emigration to the tea districts and to other districts where work was offered was largely resorted to. This shows that the failure to attract local labour for the expenditure of the improvement grant (already alluded to in paragraph 67 *supra*) must be explained by the utter inadequacy of the remuneration offered.

Chota Nagpur Division.

74. The state of things was more favourable in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division. The prices were high and the crops were mostly good. *Lac* fetched good prices and this helped the raiyats in Palamau to comparative prosperity. From Singhbhum it is reported that some hundreds of Hos have left the Kolhan for the States of Mourbhanj and Keonjhur, where they can have land rent-free, jungles to range at large in, and forests where grazing and cutting timber are permitted without the risk of prosecution.

Orissa Division

75. In Orissa, the general condition of the tenants of Governmet Estates was satisfactory. As a partial loss of crops occurred in the Birso estate in Balasore, the realization of loans previously given was postponed for a year. In Angul, loans were distributed and work was provided to enable the people to earn the wherewithal to purchase seed.

Wards and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Wards and Attached Estates, 1906-1907.]

Number of Estates, and payment of Government demands.

76. At the close of the year there were 190 estates under management as against 164 in the previous year. Just over 91 per cent. of the revenue and cesses due to Government was paid up by these estates; in the last preceding year the precentage was 89. The bulk of the arrears is due in respect of the involved estates in the Presidency Division.

Collections of rent and cesses.

77. There is an improvement in this respect from 96·1 per cent. in 1905-06 to 97·2 per cent. in the present year. The uncollected balances total over fifty-two lakhs, but the position has improved since last year. There has been a reduction in the number of certificates issued for the recovery of rent and cesses, from 7,425 to 6,917, but only 34 per cent. of the amount for which certificates were issued has been realized. It is reported that realizations were difficult owing to the impossibility of finding the properties of the judgment-debtors in many instances. There is an increase from of 2,135 to 4,085 in the number of civil suits filed. Part of the increase is due to the institution of cases in respect of estates recently brought under management. It would appear that some at least of these civil proceedings are infructuous, as not more than 34 per cent. off the amount decreed has been recovered.

Financial position of the estates.

78. It is impossible to analyse here in detail the financial position of the estates under management as it varies so considerably. During the year, over fifty lakhs were paid in liquidation of debts, but at the close of the year, their aggregate was still over two hundred and twenty lakhs.

Management charges.

79. The expenses of management vary greatly. In the Reeling estate (Bhagalpur Division) it is as high as 39 per cent., but reductions have been effected in the rent collection establishment, of which the results will be apparent in the current year. In the Orissa Division 22·9 per cent. is the rate in the Dompara estate. In many instances the rate exceeds the standard rate of 10 per cent. on the current demand. In the Presidency, Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions, the rate was below the standard, regarding all the estates in the division as a whole. It is questionable if this is a proper method of considering the expense of management. Just as the assets of one estate are not available to liquidate the debts of another, so the small cost of administration of one should not be set off against the very high cost of another. It is recognized, of course, that special expenditure for extra

establishments for survey or similar work is frequently absolutely necessary at the beginning to get things into order and pave the way for efficient management later on.

80. In the year under review Rs. 3,38,657 was expended on these purposes, the amount in the previous year having been Rs. 2,36,563. The institution of the Agricultural Department has altered the aspect of the question of experimental works on wards and attached estates. It is hoped that these experiments will be systematised and simplified with the object of concentrating attention on even one promising experiment, and then extending its advantages as widely as possible when its success is proved or assured. Schools, dispensaries and improvements.

81. Hostels have been opened at Hazaribagh and Ranchi for the accommodation of the children of proprietors of encumbered estates in the Chota Nagpur Division. This is a temporary measure, pending the decision of the larger question of providing schools for the sons of zamindars as a class. Education of Wards.

82. As in the previous year, a lady barrister is retained as legal adviser to *purdanashin* ladies whose estates are under management. This appointment continues to justify its existence, especially as litigation has been checked and family estrangements mitigated by the lady who holds it. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam has agreed to defray part of the cost of the appointment, as she will in future give advice when required in the case of estates under the charge of that Government. Legal advice.

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1906-1907—Divisional Miscellaneous Reports, 1906-1907.]

83. The relations between landlords and tenants throughout the greater portion of this province are governed by the Bengal Tenancy Act. As usual, it is reported to work satisfactorily, but in spite of it, the refusal to grant proper receipts, the levy of illegal cesses and the exaction of agreements to pay illegally enhanced rents are far from unknown. Still there are signs that the extension of operations under Chapter X of that Act has had a healthy educative influence. There is an interesting instance of this noted in the annual report of the Director of Land Records. An application for a survey and for the preparation of a record-of-rights was made by the tenants of an estate in Murshidabad district. Their chief cause of quarrel with their zamindar was that they believed he had enhanced their rents illegally, from twelve to fifteen years ago. It was found that their claim was correct, and in the course of the operations, the illegal enhancements were pruned away. Relations between landlords and tenants.

84. As noted in Chapter III of this report, an Act amending the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed early in the year, after lengthy deliberations and exhaustive criticism. Its most novel feature is the extension to the estates of selected landlords, under certain restrictions, of the summary procedure known as the "Certificate Procedure" to provide a more expeditious method of getting a decree in suits for arrears of rent. It is a bold experiment in view of the history of previous attempts at a summary procedure for the recovery of rent in Bengal. Still, conditions have altered since the days of the *Haftam* and *Panjam* Regulations; and the result of the present new departure must be awaited. Bengal Tenancy Act. Bengal Act I of 1907.

The Amending Act further lays on Civil Courts an obligation to refer to the entries in the record-of-rights in rent-suits and to state their reasons for so doing, in case they give decrees otherwise than in accordance with the facts therein recorded.

85. Printed rent receipts in the prescribed form are not generally given by landlords to their tenants. As already alluded to in paragraph 38 of this report, rent may be remitted by money-order in certain districts; but the total amount so remitted is only a very small fraction of the gross rental of the province, as shown by the road-cess returns. Rent Receipts.

86. In the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri (Orissa Division), Darjeeling (Bhagalpur Division), and Manbhum (Chota Nagpur Division), rent suits are tried by Revenue Officers under the Rent Act, X of 1859. There are special local enactments in force in the other districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and in Sambalpur. Rent suits.

Orissa.

87. In the Orissa Division, 30,671 suits of all kinds were instituted during the year. This shows a small increase on the figures of the previous year. The number of execution cases instituted in Cuttack and Balasore has fallen off largely. This is attributed to the prosperous condition of the agriculturists, to whom the prevalence of high prices for food-grains and jute has brought welcome relief.

Chota Nagpur.

88. In this division there is an increase in rent suits, which is most marked in Singhbhum. About 318 suits were instituted by the Dhalbhum Syndicate, Limited, who have taken over his interests from the holder of a twenty-five years' lease granted by the proprietor of this estate. As the greater part of the tenants deposit their rents in Court, it is clear that there is some friction between them and the Syndicate. This estate has recently been taken over by the Court of Wards, and the Deputy Commissioner is practically only a rent-receiver from the lessees on behalf of the proprietor.

In Ranchi, the tenants and landlords are not on the best of terms, as is evident from the fact that rents are frequently deposited in the Treasury. This is done to avoid the demand of illegally enhanced rent by the landlords, to checkmate the landlords who refuse to grant proper rent-receipts, and to escape the demand for predial services which have already been commuted for a cash payment.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative authority.

Course of Legislation.

89. Three Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1906-07— **Acts passed during 1906-07.**

Bengal Act II of 1906 [*The Bengal Land Registration (Amendment) Act, 1906*].—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th March 1906. Its object is to empower the Board of Revenue to introduce such changes in the form of the registers to be kept under the Act as may from time to time prove desirable. In addition to several minor amendments which the working of the Act has shown to be necessary, the Act prescribes a uniform fee of two rupees for applications for the opening of a separate account, whether made under the Land Registration Act or under the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859. **Bengal Act II of 1906.**

Bengal Act III of 1906 (*The Bengal Disorderly Houses Act, 1906*).—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th March 1906. It empowers a Magistrate of the first class to direct the discontinuance of the use of houses (1) as brothels, or by disorderly persons, in the vicinity of any educational institution or to the annoyance of respectable residents, or (2) as brothels in the immediate neighbourhood of a cantonment. It applies, in the first instance, to all provincial municipalities; but power is taken to extend it, as occasion requires, to non-municipal areas. **Bengal Act III of 1906.**

Bengal Act IV of 1906 (*The Sambalpur Civil Courts Act, 1906*).—This Act was passed by the Bengal Council on the 18th August 1906 and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 4th September 1906. It brings the law relating to the Civil Courts in the district of Sambalpur into conformity with that in force elsewhere in the territory included within the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William. **Bengal Act IV of 1906.**

90. No action was taken by the Council in respect of the Excise Bill. **Bills.**

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1904, which was introduced in Council on the 26th March 1904, was removed from the list of business by order of the President, under the rules, on the 2nd November 1906.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1906, was introduced in Council on the 10th November 1906, and the Report of the Select Committee was presented in Council on the 9th March 1907.

The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1906, was introduced in Council on the 10th November 1906, was passed on the 3rd April 1907, and is now Bengal Act I of 1907. It, on the one hand, provides a summary procedure for the collection of rents and, on the other, discourages landlords from evading the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, with regard to the enhancement of rent by forcing unfair or inequitable 'compromises' on their tenants; it compels reference to the record-of-rights, when such record has been duly prepared and finally published; it also empowers Government to distinguish between good and bad landlords, and to take steps, in the case of the latter for the reduction of rents, when they appear to have been so enhanced as to be unduly oppressive to the cultivators of the soil. It revises the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, to the extent of removing such defects in it as the working of the Act during the past twenty years has brought to light, and such ambiguities and anomalies as have given rise to conflict of opinion and judicial decision. **Bengal Act I of 1907.**

The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1907, was introduced in Council on the 12th January 1907, and referred to a Select Committee on the 2nd February 1907. Its object is to further amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act (Bengal Act I of 1879) and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act, 1897 (Bengal Act IV of 1897). It is intended to remove certain grievances suffered by the aborigines in Chota Nagpur, especially the Mundaris in the district of Ranchi, and to recognize by law certain customs prevalent among them.

Police.

[Report on the Administration of Police, 1906; Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial, Section VII.]

Strength of the force.

91. The reorganization of the superior staff of the Police force was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, with effect from the 1st April 1906. The new scheme provides for 4 (instead of 2) Deputy Inspectors-General, 45 (as against 35) Superintendents, 46 Assistant Superintendents of Police, and for the creation of a graded service of 21 Deputy Superintendents. The full number of officers thus sanctioned cannot be employed for some time to come. To recruit at once so large a number would lead to a serious block in promotion later on. Two Deputy Inspectors-General and 5 Superintendents were added during the year to the cadre; and eight Deputy Superintendents were appointed. One of the new Deputy Inspectors-General was placed in charge of the Railway Police and of the Criminal Investigation Department. The other was appointed to the newly-created Burdwan Range. The reorganization of the subordinate establishment, involving an increase of 871 officers and men, was sanctioned towards the close of the year. Most of the vacancies have been filled up, but in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions there is a difficulty in recruiting the requisite number of Bengali constables. The remedy lies in the recruitment of more up-country men. Revised rules for the recruitment of constables and of Sub-Inspectors are under consideration.

Training Schools.

92. Excellent work was done at the Police Training School at Bhagalpur, but the year's record was marred by an organized examination fraud on the part of the cadet Sub-Inspectors, who got from some corrupt press employés copies of the papers set for the Final Examination. The fraud was detected in time to prevent its benefiting those who had seen the papers; and suitable punishment was meted out to the ringleaders. During the year under review, a third school for the training of constables was establised at Ranchi. This school is intended primarily for recruits from the aboriginal tribes of Chota Nagpur. The reports on it and on the older schools at Purulia and Bhagalpur are very satisfactory. More than two thousand constables were trained in them during the year.

Discipline of the Force.

93. The percentage of officers and men departmentally punished has risen from 12·9 and 10·1 in 1905 to 17·5 and 13·6 respectively. This is attributed to the stricter discipline which is now insisted on in consequence of the recommendations of the Police Commission. The number of convictions under the Penal Code fell from 132 to 110, or about 0·5 per cent. As in the previous year, three cases of torture were brought against the Police. One of these was dismissed summarily; in another the accused were convicted; and in the third case, where the evidence was not sufficient to support a conviction in Court, departmental action is being taken. There were 32 charges of extortion against 37 in 1905. Of these, 20 either broke down or were compromised; and eight ended in punishment, judicial or departmental, against 13 of the previous year. The improved pay and prospects of the police are attracting a better class of candidates; and it is anticipated that this, and the closer and more systematic supervision that is now insisted on, cannot fail to have excellent results. Active oppression on the part of the police is steadily diminishing.

Health of the Force.

94. The average daily percentage of sick in hospital was 1·8, but the number varied greatly from district to district. In Gaya it was only 0·3 per cent. against 22·1 in Birbhum. The explanation that the high figure for the latter district is due to its unhealthiness does not seem adequate. The death-rate amongst the general population last year in Birbhum was only 39·94 per mille against 36·08 in the Province as a whole.

95. The Town Police is still in a state of transition, and it has not been possible as yet to provide the full number of officers sanctioned. A proper system of patrolling has still to be introduced. This is an important matter which should receive special attention. Five hundred town chaukidars were replaced by constables during the year, and an equal number, it is reported, will be replaced this year. Town Police.

96. The enquiries which were set on foot with a view to improving the status of the Chaukidari Panchayats and strengthening their control over the chaukidars were completed during the year, and a Manual embodying Government orders on the subject is under issue. Difficulties appear to have arisen in some districts in connection with the new system; but these were due either to the orders not having yet been fully understood, or else to sufficient trouble not having been taken to ensure that they were properly carried out. In many districts the new system is already working well; and there is no doubt that with care and tact the same satisfactory result can be attained elsewhere. It is imperative that the orders which have been issued receive due attention; that the best men available are appointed as Presidents of panchayats; that after appointment they are treated with proper consideration, and that the local police are not allowed to worry them or to usurp their powers. Very considerable advantages may be anticipated from the new system, and it is important to make the post of President one which the leading and influential villagers will seek after and value. The rearrangement of beats has caused a reduction in the number of chaukidars under Act VI (B.C.) of 1870 and under Regulation XX of 1817 from 85,393 and 5,084 in 1905 to 83,524 and 4,652 in 1906. The enquiries referred to above did not extend to Chota Nagpur, where a different Act and system are in force. A scheme for the improvement of the chaukidari administration in that Division is under consideration. Extraordinary variations exist in the system of rewarding and punishing chaukidars. In some districts, punishments seem to be needlessly frequent and severe, while in others too little attention is paid to the granting of rewards. Special enquiries into the matter are being made. Rural Police.

97. In seven cases in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions, a total force of additional police, amounting to 3 Sub-Inspectors, 12 head constables and 82 constables, was entertained. In the previous year the number of cases was ten and the force was 4 Sub-Inspectors, 11 Head Constables and 64 Constables. Punitive Police. Additional Police (Section 15, Act V of 1861).

The reasons for their entertainment were to prevent obstructions on the South Behar Railway (Monghyr district), to keep in touch with a gang of burglars and dacoits who could not be brought into Court owing to the support they received from influential persons (Bhagalpur district), and to preserve the peace in other districts.

Five hundred and seventy-six men were appointed special constables in 11 cases, against 1,774 men in 15 cases in the previous year. Ninety per cent. of the appointments were for short terms only during the *Muharram* and *Bakr-Id* festivals. The vast majority of them were, as usual, in Darbhanga district. Special Police (Section 17, Act V of 1861).

98. It has occasionally been noticed that there was a tendency on the part of local officers to supply police to private individuals too freely. Definite orders have recently been issued, laying down the principles to be followed in dealing with applications for the deputation of a police force for private purposes. The number of cases in which such applications were complied with during the year was only 14 against 58 in 1905. Supply of Police to private individuals.

99. The total number of reported cognizable cases rose from 115,463 in 1905 to 122,651. This was due mainly to an increase in thefts and burglaries on account of the high price of food-grains. Excluding public nuisances and offences under special or local laws, the percentage of police cases ending in conviction to cases decided rose from 77 per cent. to 80; but including the above offences it fell from 89 to 87. The percentage of convictions to cases enquired into by the police was 42 as compared with 44 in 1905. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases fell from 75·1 to 73·9. Cognizable Crime.

100. The number of cases declared to be false shows an increase of 201; but the proportion of such cases to the total number of cases reported has remained stationary. The percentage of such cases in which prosecutions were instituted under sections 182 and 211, Indian Penal Code, has False cases.

fallen from 15·7 to 12·8; and convictions were obtained only in two out of every five cases prosecuted. Very little attention is paid in some districts to this important matter. The results are particularly bad in the Presidency Division, and worst of all in Nadia, where there were only six prosecutions, all abortive, out of 106 cases declared false. The attention of the Magistrates will again be drawn to the remarks on this subject in paragraph 10 of the Resolution on the Report for the year 1904. There has been a slight increase in the number of cases in which compensation was given under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code; but there is still room for improvement.

Remands.

101. There has been a slight improvement in the percentage (53·8) of cases disposed of at the first or second hearing; but the number of cases remanded five or six times is still far too high, especially in certain districts of Bihar and Chota Nagpur. Special attention will be paid to this important matter at the annual inspection of Magistrates' offices by Commissioners.

Serious Crimes. Rioting.

102. There has been a decrease in the number of rioting cases (949) in all Divisions, except the Presidency, where the number has risen from 242 in 1905 to 298 in 1906. The increase in the Presidency Division is accompanied by a large diminution in the number of persons bound down to keep the peace under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code. It is possible that neglect to take timely preventive action is to some extent responsible for the greater number of rioting cases. About three cases out of every four ended in conviction.

Murder.

103. The number of serious crimes against the person was 3,555, or 55 more than in 1905. The number of murders reported rose from 248 to 284. Of these, no less than 128 were undetected. Of the 156 cases which came before the Courts, convictions were obtained in only 40 per cent. The results were worst in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. It is very difficult to get people to come forward and give evidence in these cases, and juries are naturally reluctant to convict except on the clearest and most convincing proof. At the same time, the above figures are in the highest degree unsatisfactory. One of the most important cases was the murder of the European Manager of Phubsering, a tea-garden near Darjeeling. The accused were acquitted on appeal to the High Court and severe strictures were passed on the conduct of the police officer who investigated the case.

Dacoity.

104. The number of dacoities reported was 228, as compared with 247 in 1905. The figures for 1906, however, include a number of cases which occurred in the previous year, but were brought to light during the year by approvers. Special attention has been paid of late to this form of crime; and the year was notable for the successful prosecution of several notorious gangs of dacoits under section 401 of the Indian Penal Code. The total number of cases decided in the Courts was 73 against 91 in the previous year; of these 47 ended in conviction against 53. There was a large increase in the number of burglaries from 27,983 in 1905 to 32,374 in 1906. The increase is most marked in Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, the Sonthal Parganas, Khulna, Muzaffarpur and Jessore, and is everywhere attributed to the high price of grain. It is significant that in most of those districts measures had to be taken for the relief of distress of famine. There was a similar increase in the number of theft cases. Cattle thefts increased from 1,736 in 1905 to 2,022.

Railway Police.

105. The control of the Railway Police was transferred during the year from the Deputy Inspectors-General of the different Ranges to the newly appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Crime and Railways, under whom there are now three Superintendents of Police, viz., one for the East Indian Railway system, another for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway system, and a third, aided by an Assistant Superintendent, for the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Bengal and North-Western Railway systems. There was an increase in the total number of cases reported by the Railway Police from 7,875 to 8,658. The number of cognizable cases decided was much the same as in the previous year, and the judicial results were good. Theft cases increased in number from 3,216 to 3,825. Gang cases are being instituted against four gangs of thieves who operate on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The number of cases of obstruction on the line rose from 29 to 60. Petty obstructions were placed on the lines for the purpose of annoying the East Indian

Railway authorities during the strikes which occurred at Asansol, Jamalpur and elsewhere. These strikes, which were engineered by outsiders from Calcutta, were brought to a prompt conclusion by the Railway authorities. It is satisfactory to note that nothing very serious occurred in the course of these strikes, thanks to the precautionary measures adopted by the Police to preserve order and to render assistance to the Railway authorities.

Criminal Investigation Department.

106. Much valuable work was done in the detection of organized crime and in the successful prosecution of professional criminals by the Criminal Investigation Department. A number of gang cases were worked up against habitual thieves and dacoits, many of whom were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. One of the most interesting cases brought to light was the New York Life Insurance case. In this case the note-forger, Benarasi Das, tried to secure the insurance money payable on the death of a certain Sital Pershad Agarwala, who was represented by him to be a rich merchant, by removing him and substituting the dead body of a patient who had just died in hospital. The clue in this case was obtained from a convicted forger. Benarasi Das was convicted and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment. Considerable progress is being made in the classification of finger prints, the preparation of history sheets and the photographing of notorious criminals. The services of this Department were much appreciated by the local officers, and the cordial relations between it and the Calcutta Police are still maintained.

Mortality caused by Snakes and Wild Animals.

[Report on the above, and measures taken for their destruction; Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Wild animals.

107. During the year 756 persons are reported to have been killed by wild animals, a decrease of 52 from the figures for 1905. In view of the continued danger to human life in Cuttack and in the Darjeeling Terai from wild elephants, a proposed form of agreement for their capture has been drawn up and approved of. The other figures vary only a little from those of the previous year, but little reliance can be placed on them. For example, deaths caused by jackals are not included at all in these returns, and yet their ravages are widespread. In Bhagalpur district alone, over 150 deaths were attributed to them. Man-eating tigers were killed in Angul and Sambalpur.

Snakes.

The number of persons killed by snakes is reported as 8,862 against 8,245 in 1905. High floods that drove the reptiles for shelter into human habitations have undoubtedly helped to swell the death roll.

Cattle killed by wild animals and by snakes.

About 17,000 cattle are reported to have been killed by wild animals, the number for the previous year being 18,400. Only 256 cattle are reported as having been killed by snakes. This seems far too low to be accurate.

Destruction of wild animals and snakes.

In the year 1,521 wild animals are reported to have been destroyed and 19,182 snakes. The latter figure is much below last year's figure, 21,751: the former is practically the same. Rewards were paid amounting to Rs. 6,166 for the wild animals killed and Rs. 306 for the snakes. These amounts are about the same as those given last year.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1906.]

Reorganization.

108. The scheme for the reorganization of the Calcutta Police received the sanction of the Secretary of State in August 1906. This scheme will be worked up to gradually as funds permit. A commencement had already been made in the previous year under the provisional sanction accorded to the scheme by the Government of India. The principal step taken during the year under review was the entertainment of 18 additional Sub-Inspectors. Sanction was accorded to the substitution of armed police for military guards at the Mint, Currency Office and Bank of Bengal, but the substitution has not as yet been accomplished.

Discipline.

109. There was an increase in the number of dismissals and other punishments. The Commissioner of Police attributes this to increased supervision and stricter discipline. It is partly the result of the special enquiries which were made into the conduct of the River Police. It is satisfactory to note that, in spite of stricter discipline, the better pay and prospects of the force have brought about a considerable decrease in the number of resignations, of which there were only 133 as compared with 321 in 1904 and 236 in 1905.

Cognizable cases.

110. The number of true cognizable cases reported direct to the police and instituted on complaint to a Magistrate has increased by over 4,000. This is due principally to a larger number of police prosecutions for public nuisances, offences under the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts and cruelty to animals; but there is also a regrettable increase in the number of serious offences against public tranquillity. There was a large increase of 1,070 cases under the Port Act, due to the investigation which has been referred to above. There were 412 burglaries against 404 in 1905. The introduction of a regular system of patrol, which is now under the consideration of Government, should lead to a diminution in this form of crime. Fourteen true cases of murder were reported. In four of these cases no clue was obtained, and in only three were the offenders convicted.

111. The number of non-cognizable cases was 15,027 against 15,349 in 1905; of these, 9,547 ended in conviction.

112. No fewer than 30,499 cases were instituted in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts, of which about 4·3 per cent. were disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates. The High Court and the Alipore Sessions Court dealt with 78 and 36 cases, respectively, of which 61 and 31 ended in conviction.

113. Considerable attention was paid during the year to the operations of fraudulent firms. The system of instituting prosecutions in the districts where the complainant and witnesses live has led to the disappearance of the larger fraudulent firms. An exemplary sentence of fourteen years' rigorous imprisonment was obtained against one of the most notorious offenders of this class.

114. Further progress was made in the system of identification by means of finger impressions. One thousand and twenty accused persons were thus identified as against 984, 917 and 897 in the three preceding years. Five hundred and eighty-one old offenders were reconvicted.

Public scares and demonstrations

115. A noteworthy event of the year was the panic that occurred in Calcutta towards the end of August, commonly called the 'kidnapping scare.' It arose out of a trumped-up story that he had been kidnapped, told by a youth to his father, in order to conceal the fact that he had got into bad company and suffered in consequence. The panic spread to all classes of the Indian population, and led to unprovoked assaults on various innocent persons on the suspicion that they were kidnappers. There were demonstrations connected with the anniversary of the partition of Bengal on the 16th October, but they passed off without any disturbance. The twenty-second sitting of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta in December. An Indian Industrial Exhibition was also held at the same time. Both entailed considerable additional police work and the police acquitted themselves creditably. The imports of firearms by sea to Calcutta show a considerable increase over the figures for the previous five years both as regards rifles and guns.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1906: Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Territorial Jurisdiction.

116. The figures for area and population have been calculated on the basis of the census of 1901. The territorial limits of the jurisdiction of the High Court, as regards the Province of Bengal were slightly extended during the year by the transfer of certain permanently-settled estates from the district of Ballia, in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, to the district of Shahabad.

Changes.

117. Before March 1906, the districts of Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur were included within the Tirhut Sessions Division, and the districts of Champaran

and Saran within the Saran Sessions Division. In the year under report, by a Notification of the Government of Bengal, No. 1389J., dated the 27th February 1906, the district of Darbhanga was separated from the Tirhut Sessions Division, and was created a separate Sessions Division; and by a Notification of the same Government, No. 1390J., of the same date, the district of Champaran was separated from the Saran Sessions Division and included within the limits of the Muzaffarpur Sessions Division. One additional Sessions Division was accordingly created during the year.

Judicial staff.

118. For Sessions work, the staff consisted of 19 Sessions Judges and 2 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. The number of Sessions Judges was one in excess of the number employed in 1905 in consequence of the creation of the Darbhanga Sessions Division referred to above. Three Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. They decided 12, 2, and 36 Sessions cases, respectively, during the year. Besides the above, 3 temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed for short periods in the districts of Bankura, Hooghly and Manbhum for the trial of gang dacoity cases.

The Magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency Town, consisted of 345 Stipendiary and 1,201 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 2 and 8, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. No Special Magistrate was appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during the year. Of the 345 Stipendiary Magistrates, 209 exercised first, 80 second, and 56 third class powers.

There were 143 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 1,122 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, one new Bench having been created in the district of the 24-Parganas and 4 Benches having been abolished; 3 in the district of Bhagalpur and 1 in the district of Saran. Of the total, 121 were independent, and 22 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

119. There were 234,400 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 6,996 on the figures of 1905. In the latter year there was an increase of 1,572 on the figures of 1904.

Of the total, 136,899 were under the Indian Penal Code and 97,501 under Special and Local Laws. These totals are more by 3,484 and 3,512, respectively, than those of 1905. The increase under the first head was most marked in Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh, Balasore, Purnea, Monghyr, Ranchi and Khulna; and under the second head, it was greatest in the Presidency Town, the 24-Parganas, Howrah, and Puri.

In comparing the figures for 1906 with those for 1905 for the purposes of the present report, the district of Sambalpur has not been taken into account because, as stated in the report for 1905, only the statistics of that district from the date of its transfer to the Province of Bengal, viz., the 16th October 1905, were referred to in that report and in the statements appended thereto.

Cases found to be false.

120. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1905, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 39,000, or 16·6 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for 1905 was 15·7. Of the total in 1906, complaints were dismissed in 32,353 cases, or 3,146 more than in 1905. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 6,647 or 65 less than in 1905.

Cases found to be true.

121. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 195,017 were found to be true, and of these, 153,569 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 8,797 cases. Compared with 1905, the number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial show an increase of 4,693 and 9,870, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

122. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 38,994 were in the Courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town and 114,575 in the Courts of Magistrates in the Mufassal.

I.—Magistrates in Calcutta.

Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was more by 4,720 than in 1905. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 32,269 or 3,125 more than in 1905, while cases under the Penal Code rose from 5,130 to 6,725. The increase under the former head was mainly due to the fact that the number of offences under the Police Act rose from 11,478 to 14,341, and under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 5,035 to 5,969. The number of offences under the Port Act, however, fell to 1,684 from 2,786. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase of 893 in prosecutions for offences affecting the human body, and of 457 in prosecutions for offences affecting the public health.

Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate. 29,968 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 28,648 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,132 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 188 before Benches. In 1905, the same officers disposed of 25,502 cases, of which 24,037 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,167 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 298 before Benches. There were 45 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 76 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates; 2,839 being under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates was 13,263 against 16,029 in 1905, notwithstanding the increase in the number of cases decided during 1906.

The number of cases brought before the Court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 9,067, of which 7,871 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 9,116, of which 8,213 were decided under the summary procedure; and 19 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

123. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 32,161. Of the persons tried, 3,297 were acquitted or discharged, 28,681 were convicted, one person died before trial, and two persons were transferred for trial to other districts; 97 persons were committed to the Sessions, and 83 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 4,773 were convicted, and 2,777 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	2,570	27,775	91·5
Benches of Magistrates ...	168	67	28·5
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly ...	559	839	60·

Of the persons convicted, 1,414 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 3 persons including terms of solitary confinement; 623 were punished with simple imprisonment; 25,067 with fine; and 321 with whipping. Thirty-five of the persons sentenced to fine, and 26 of those sentenced to whipping, were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Twenty-one sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Nine hundred and nineteen convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 188 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 168 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 17 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bounds to keep the peace; 56 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under Special Laws in the case of 154 persons.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 10,802 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 9,735 were convicted, 8,041 were acquitted or discharged, 2 died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other Courts, and 24 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was

2,728, or 478 more than in 1905. The percentage of conviction was 90·3. Of the persons convicted, 5,825 were punished with fines, and the rest were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and by-laws of the Corporation.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

124. At the opening of the year, 2,722 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 114,673 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 114,406 were disposed of, 2,946 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were more than in 1905 by 5,176. In cases under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences against property and offences affecting the human body. The variations under the other heads are slight and call for no remark. Total cases for tria

The district of Sambalpur being excluded, as already stated, an increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 18 and a decrease from 12 districts. The increase was marked in Howrah (1,408), Bhagalpur (587), Puri (482), Monghyr (473), and Hooghly (440), while the decrease was greatest in Gaya (1,502), Darbhanga (440), and Manbhum (430).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates ...	805	56
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	55,301	24,349
Honorary Magistrates ...	14,562	1,198
Benches of Magistrates ...	6,210	11,768

Of the 805 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 32 were decided in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Deputy Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur Division and the Sambalpur district, this being an increase of 4 over the figures for 1905.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 157 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was more than the number decided in 1905 by 5,217. This increase is confined to Stipendiary and Honorary Magistrates; District Magistrates and Benches of Magistrates having disposed of less work than in 1905.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 1,018, as compared with 1,158 in 1905. The largest number of cases was decided by the District Magistrates of Puri (150), Bhagalpur (145), Bankura (132), Khulna (116) and Palamau (99).

125. Of the total number of cases shown in paragraph 10 above, 1,303 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 113,103 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 159,129 persons were accused, this number being 10,365 more than that of 1905. Of the total, 93,901, or 59· per cent., were convicted, and 65,228, or 41· per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1905, 60·8 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Result of trials.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 36,218, or 41·2 per cent., were convicted, and 51,644, or 58·8 per cent., were acquitted or discharged.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1906 was 5,725, as compared with 5,426 of 1905. Of these, 7, all of whom were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than 6 months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than 3 months, submitted by the Magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 584.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates ...	6,527	14,866	69·5
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	49,781	65,932	56·9
Honorary Magistrates	7,991	12,435	61·2
District Magistrates	1,029	668	39·3

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were, by Benches of Magistrates, 11,346; by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 26,073; by Honorary Magistrates, 1,244; and by District Magistrates, 78.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentences.	Non-appealable sentences.
On Regular trial	44,094	11,066
On Summary trial	8,062	30,679

Punishments.

126. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	18,795
	Simple	497
Fine	With imprisonment	2,151
	Without imprisonment	68,312
Whipping	Sole punishment ...	1,018
	Additional punishment	208

Preventive measures.

127. A term of solitary confinement was included in 289 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 74 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Two thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,591 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders and 223 persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 73 instances, and 84 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,799 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 902 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,106 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 12,565 for terms not exceeding 6 months; 5,060 for terms not exceeding 2 years; and 78 for terms exceeding 2 years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 1,226 persons as against 1,236 in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 4,92,947. During the year, Rs. 4,42,336 were realised, and Rs. 45,657 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realised.

Miscellaneous Proceedings.

128. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year.

Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code.

There were 1,269 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 5,888 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved therein were in excess of the number brought before the Courts in 1905. Of the persons concerned, 1,898 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this Chapter was largest in Khulna (975), Howrah (547), the 24-Parganas (391), and Bhagalpur (335). In all of these districts there was a considerable increase in the number of proceedings of this class, compared with the returns of 1905.

In 1,751 cases, 3,862 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 3,076 of them. Of the latter, 2,939 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 348 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 2,591 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapter X, Criminal Procedure Code.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 858 cases, and in the cases of 20 persons a reference was made to a Jury under section 138 of the Code.

Chapter XII, Criminal Procedure Code.

The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 1,646, an increase of 440 on the figures for 1905.

Chapter XXXVI, Criminal Procedure Code.

Under section 250 of the Code, 801 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought by them having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 812 persons, and orders were made absolute against 228.

Witnesses.

129. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 328,557 as compared with 297,343 in 1905. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 118,567, or 26·5 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 25·9. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 36,602 in 1905 to Rs. 48,882 in 1906.

Of the total number in attendance, 352,233 (79 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 68,033 (15·2 per cent.) on the second, 17,938 (4 per cent.) on the third, and 7,920 (1·8 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days shows an increase of 2,392 over the number so detained in 1905.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses were detained for more than three days were Monghyr and Sambalpur (5·4 and 5·2 per cent., respectively), Bhagalpur (3·4 per cent.), Birbhum and the 24-Parganas (2·7 per cent. each), Hazaribagh (2·5 per cent.), Gaya and Muzaffarpur (2·4 per cent. each), Puri (2·2 per cent.) and Burdwan (2·1 per cent.). Explanations of these detentions have, as usual, been considered by the High Court, and orders have been passed on them.

III.—Courts of Sessions.

Commitments.

130. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1, 03, or 164 more than in 1905, and the number of cases disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,276, which is also in excess of the number disposed of in 1905 by 142. There were 121 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in Manbhum from 19 to 49, in Bhagalpur from 42 to 71, in Purnea from 32 to 61, in Birbhum from 28 to 46, in Murshidabad from 23 to 39, in Patna from 44 to 59, in Champaran from 36 to 51, in Ranchi from 33 to 48, in Nadia from 21 to 31, in Khulna from 31 to 41, and in Darbhanga from 27 to 37. On the other hand, the returns of only 8 districts show a decline in the number of commitments, etc., the most pronounced being in Hooghly, a decline from 57 to 33, in Jessore from 50 to 41, in Midnapore from 67 to 60, in Monghyr from 52 to 45. The numbers in Cuttack and Balasore were the same as in 1905, and, as in that year, the number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (108).

Results of trials.

131. There were 3,272 persons, or 580 more than in 1905 under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 2,931 persons were decided, and 314 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,931 persons tried, 1,823, or 62·2 per cent., were convicted, and 1,030 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 78 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

132. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:—

Death ...	...	25
Transportation	For life ...	165
	For a term of years ...	111
Imprisonment	Rigorous ...	1,185
	Simple ...	4
Fine ...	...	23
Whipping	...	27

In the case of 55 out of the 1,185 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of 2 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 20 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 24 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 348 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (55 for terms not exceeding one year and 293 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 1 person, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the

peace, was required to execute a bond with sureties to keep the peace in addition to his substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	
	6 months	115
	2 years	366
	7 "	974
Exceeding 7 years ...		75

Fines to the amount of Rs. 4,282 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 11,109 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 470, as compared with Rs. 3,252 in 1905. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 16 in 1906, as compared with Rs. 2,007 in 1905.

Jury trials.

133. The number of persons tried by Jury during 1906 was 762; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the Jury in respect of 674 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 88.

In the case of one person, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials by Assessors.

134. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 1,566, with the result that in the case of 1,211 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 147 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 208, he differed from the opinion of both the Assessors. The corresponding figures for 1905 were 1,423, 1,027, 168 and 228, respectively.

Duration of cases.

135. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, fell from 26·3 days in 1905 to 33·8 days in 1906. The attention of the Court continues to be directed to the reduction of the duration of Sessions trials, and all cases of unusual duration are carefully scrutinized with this end in view. The continued fall in the average duration of Sessions trials is a satisfactory feature in the year's work. The duration of cases was notably high, in the districts of Sambalpur (60·3 days), Burdwan (45·6 days) and Palamau 43·4 days).

Witnesses.

136. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Sessions was 19,196. Of these, 12,990 were examined and 6,206 discharged without examination. In 1905, the corresponding figures were 10,798 and 5,511, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 9,852 (51·3 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 4,750 (24·8 per cent.) on the second day; 2,510 (13·1 per cent.) on the third day; and 2,084 (10·8 per cent.) after the third day. These results were worse than in 1905, but may in some degree be attributed to the lengthy gang dacoity cases tried during the year. The Court has taken due notice of the excessive detention of witnesses, in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials rose from Rs. 21,899 in 1904 to Rs. 22,815 in 1905 and to Rs. 25,584 in 1906.

Commitments to the High Court.

137. Including 16 cases pending at the opening of the year, 93 cases came before the High Court for trial. Of these, 80, inclusive of the case of a European British subject committed by a District Magistrate, were tried during the year, and 13 remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 98 persons were tried, of whom 70 were convicted and 28 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 645, and the average duration of cases from commitment, 32·2 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

138. At the opening of 1906, there were 45 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 689 appeals were preferred, 702 were decided and 32 were pending at its close.

The numbers preferred and decided were 46 and 64 less, respectively, than in 1905; and the pending files also showed a decrease of 13.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 570 were from Courts of Session, 93 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 19 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Seven appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

139. There were 581 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 466 instances, reversed in 34 and modified in 76. Five cases were remanded for re-trial. **Results of appeals.**

Ninety-six appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency Town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 83 cases, reversed in 4 and modified in 7. Two cases were remanded for re-trial. Nineteen appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year, the orders being confirmed in 8 cases, reversed in 3 and modified in 3. Five cases were remanded for re-trial.

The results of the appeals decided during the year as affecting individuals were that the appeals of 747 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals sentences on 199 appellants were confirmed, on 1 enhanced, on 125 reduced or altered, and on 128 annulled. In the cases of 43, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

The number of cases in which a new trial or further inquiry was ordered is a large increase over the figures (7) of the preceding year.

Six appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year; and in one of them the order was upheld. In 3 cases the orders of acquittal were reversed, and in two cases retrials were ordered. The three cases in which the orders were reversed were appeals against judgments of acquittal on appeal, and in all of these the convictions and sentences of the Courts who originally tried the appellants were restored. The offences charged in one case was that of accepting an illegal gratification, and in two, that of dishonestly receiving stolen property.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

140. There were 93 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,594 appeals were preferred, 3,561 were decided, and 119 remained pending at its close. Seven appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing, or abated on the death of the appellants. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was 171 more than in 1905. In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1906, 5,682 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,049 of these, or 36 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,709 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 659 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 1,180 were acquitted; in the case of 85 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. **Sessions Courts.**

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 66·1, 11·6 and 20·7, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 47, 18·1 and 32·5 per cent. Taking into account admitted appeals only, these results were more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

141. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 139 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,636 appeals were preferred, 3,595 were decided, and 178 remained pending at its close. Two appeals were transferred to other districts for hearing. The number preferred was larger than in 1905 by 108. **Magistrates' Courts.**

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 6,420. Of these, the appeals of 1,161 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences or 2,942, whose appeals were admitted were confirmed, making a total of 4,103 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 63·9 per cent. Of the remainder, 586 appellants, or 9·1 per cent., obtained a

modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,650, or 25·6, their total annulment. In the case of 81 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results were somewhat more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code.

142. Three references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of Juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 27 were made during the year. Twenty-seven of these references were decided during the year; 3 remaining undecided at its close. The result of the 27 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the Jury was accepted in 9 cases, set aside in 16 and modified in one. One case was remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code.

143. Nineteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1906, and 5 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty-two were decided during the year, and 2 were pending at its close. In the references decided, 28 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 12 was confirmed, and in the case of 7 their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining 9 persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Criminal Procedure Code.

144. The cases of eleven persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court and disposed of during the year. In seven cases the convictions were approved, and three cases were remanded for re-trial. In the remaining case the High Court did not interfere, the reference being considered unnecessary, since the Civil Surgeon in his evidence stated that the accused was not incapable of making a defence or understanding the proceedings.

Revision.

145. During the year 146 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 4 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 142 were decided and 8 remained pending. The number reported was 4 more than in 1905. In 70 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 18 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 4 cases, and enhanced in 7. In the remaining 43 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 954 cases, an increase of 94 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 936 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 18 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 520 were rejected. Of 416 rules issued, 115 were finally discharged, 160 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 98 cases and quashed in 6; and in 37 cases, a new trial was ordered.

In 7 of the 18 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions statements, the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed; in 3 the sentences were reduced; in 7 they were enhanced, and the remaining case was remanded for re-trial.

Applications for transfer.

146. Fifty-five applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (45 original cases and 10 appeals) from one Court or District to another were on the files during the year, of which all, save one, were dealt with during the year. Twenty-six were summarily rejected, and in 5 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 23 cases, rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 16 and refused in 7 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Courts.

Sessions Courts.

147. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against

whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 2,997 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was less than in 1905 by 396. The applications of 1,486 persons were rejected, and as regards 558, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 36 persons were reversed; in 15 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of 1 person. The cases of 222 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 679 persons, new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

148. The cases of 2,392 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was greater by 307 than in 1905. Of the total, the applications of 1,265 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 602 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 15 persons were modified, and those affecting 208 were reversed. In the cases of 23 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 539, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 40 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

149. The cases of 95 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 78 in the previous year. Of these, 92 were dealt with by Magistrates, 2 by Courts of Session, and 1 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, two claimed to be tried by a mixed Jury.

In the cases of persons disposed of by Magistrates, 57 were convicted and 35 acquitted. The convictions were in 29 cases for offences under Special and Local Laws; in 7 cases for assault; in 5 cases for hurt, and 5 for offences affecting the public health, safety, etc.; in 2 cases for theft, in 2 for criminal breach of trust; and in the remaining 7 cases for defamation, insult, contempt of lawful authority, criminal force to a woman, causing death by a negligent act, criminal trespass, and mischief.

The two persons who were tried before the Court of Session were convicted of the offence of theft.

The case of the person decided by the High Court was committed by a District Magistrate for trial for an offence affecting life. He was acquitted. The largest numbers of European British subjects were tried in Darjeeling (44), Howrah (16), Burdwan and the 24-Parganas (8 from each), and Birbhum (7).

Inspection.

idency Magistrates were inspected during the year by two of the Judges of the High Court.

Results of Criminal Work.

151. There was a considerable increase in the number of criminal cases brought to trial during 1906, as compared with the previous year, both in Magistrates' Courts in the Presidency Town and in the Mufassal, and also in the Courts of Session. The amount of appellate work which came before the Courts of Session and of Magistrates also increased. There was a slight increase in revisional work in both Sessions and Magistrates' Courts. In the High Court, there was a slight decrease in appellate work and a slight increase in revisional work. The work of the Subordinate Criminal Courts was, on the whole, satisfactory and calls for no special remark.

Receipts and Charges.

152. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice, a portion of the salaries of the Judicial Officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 22,62,487. Of this amount, Rs. 13,52,785 were for the salaries of Judicial Officers; Rs. 1,02,344 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 66,332 for process-servers; Rs. 3,68,508 for other establishments; and Rs. 3,72,518 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 11,81,693. Of this amount, Rs. 5,51,567 were under fines; Rs. 1,28,022 under process fees; Rs. 1,30,220 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 2,77,590 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 94,294 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1905 by over thirty-nine thousand and one lakh and one thousand, respectively.

SONTHAL PARGANAS AND ANGUL.

Criminal Cases.

153. In Angul, 594 criminal cases were disposed of during the year, and 51 appeals were filed. In the Sonthal Parganas, 6,348 criminal cases were disposed of and 471 appeals were filed. During the year, in both districts taken together, 11,952 criminal cases were reported. Of these, 7,072 were declared true. In all there were 10,282 persons under trial, of whom 5,791 were convicted, 4,142 were acquitted, 36 died or escaped or were sent elsewhere for trial, and 313 remained under trial at the close of the year.

The greatest number of cases under the Penal Code were thefts and offences against property: 1,400 cases involving 2,339 accused were brought to trial. Next in number were cases of criminal force and assault, 838 cases involving 1,176 accused were brought to trial. Criminal trespass and hurt came next in importance.

Under special and local laws, 2,160 cases and 3,257 accused were brought to trial during the year. There were 547 miscellaneous proceedings dealt with under the Criminal Procedure Code, involving 796 persons, of whom 398 were variously dealt with, and as regards 370, the proceedings were abated. Security for good behaviour and maintenance account for the bulk of these proceedings.

Appeals. Result.

154. In all, 554 persons appealed or applied for revision of their sentences. The order or sentence was confirmed in 284 cases: in 105 cases, the appeals were rejected: in 58 cases, the sentences were reduced or modified, and in 64 cases reversed. In 2 cases, the sentences were enhanced, in 9 cases further enquiry was ordered, and in 11 cases the proceedings were referred for revision to the High Court.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for 1906. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Jail population.

155. During the year the Jail population increased from 14,872 to 15,695. The daily average population was 15,774 against 14,934 in 1905. The high prices of food grains and other necessaries of life probably account for a large part of this increased criminality.

Mortality.

156. Calculated on the daily average, the death-rate per mille of the jail population was 22·7 for all jails. The general death-rate of the province as a whole was 36·08. Purulia and Midnapore Jails show a very high rate of mortality; 53·5 per mille in the former and 55·2 per mille in the latter. These figures are considerably worse than the corresponding figures for the same jails in the previous year.

The Midnapore Jail maintains its unenviable reputation of being the most unhealthy jail in the Province. Diarrhœa and dysentery are the chief diseases. A special enquiry into the nature and conditions of jail dysentery is now in progress. These same diseases are prevalent in Midnapore district as a whole, but its general death-rate was only 36·10 per mille, and the general death-rate for Manbhum was only 26·28 per mille. The outbreak of pneumonia in Purulia Jail was the chief cause of the high mortality.

A regular anti-malarial campaign was carried out in Buxar Central Jail; the cases of malarial fever diminished in number by one-half. Special attention is being paid to the proper treatment of tuberculous patients.

The rate per mille of mortality in Naya Dumka Jail was 55·7, and in Darjeeling Jail it was 73·4. As these are small jails, the figures are misleading. In nearly every instance the history of the case shows that the disease that proved fatal must have been contracted before admission to the jail.

Generally speaking, the health in the sub-jails was worse than in the District Jails. Still, the continuous decline in the mortality rate every quinquennium since 1880 is highly satisfactory. When the present chronic overcrowding is obviated by the increase of accommodation, the health of the jail population will probably improve considerably.

Discipline.

157. During the year, 3,065 major punishments were inflicted for breaches of jail rules. There were only 113 sentences of whipping inflicted. Eleven convicts escaped during the year; all were recaptured except one.

More than half the prisoners convicted during the year were first offenders, and their crimes were not among the more serious offences. Efforts are being made to stop the manufacture of habitual criminals which results from the system of herding all convicts together. Proposals that aim at constituting juvenile depôts are under consideration, and the importance of discriminating between the punishments suitable for hardened offenders and those proper for juvenile prisoners will be again impressed on the Magistrates.

The conditions of service of jail warders remain as before and the general discontent still prevails. During the year very many resignations were tendered. Proposals for a reorganization of this service are under consideration.

158. There was a net profit of Rs. 1,763 on the factory transactions, a figure slightly higher than that of last year. There is nothing special to note on this branch of jail activity. Buxar Jail still has a thriving tent-manufacturing business in full swing. Bhagalpur Jail wishes for large orders from Government Departments for its woollen manufactures. The Alipore business in gunny bags is thriving in spite of the advance in the price of raw materials. In Midnapore Jail, the demand for cane-work was in excess of the supply. The blanket-weaving at Hazaribagh has been improved by the introduction of new methods. The Presidency Jail Press came under consideration during the year, and a redistribution of the duties of the controlling officers was proposed, to prevent friction between the Jail Superintendent and the Superintendent of Government Printing who exercised a nominal control over the Jail Press. The matter is still undecided. Jail manufactures.

159. A "Prisoners' Aid Society" has been started in Calcutta. This and the Claude Martin Fund are designed to help released convicts to an honest livelihood. The departmental rules at present provide for the sending of each prisoner to his home on release with a free Railway ticket, an allowance for food for each day's journey and sufficient clothing. Assistance from the Claude Martin Fund was given to 1,394 released convicts, a sum of Rs. 2,207 being so expended. General.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1906: Statistics of British India: Part VI,—Judicial.]

160. The territorial limits of the jurisdiction of the High Court were slightly extended during the year by the transfer of certain permanently-settled estates from the district of Ballia in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to the district of Shahabad in Bengal. The figures for area and population are those of the census of 1901. Territorial Jurisdiction.

161. The permanent Civil Judicial Staff employed in the Province during 1906 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 19 District Judges; 2 Additional District Judges; a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; two Provincial Small Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 36 Subordinate Judges; and 169 Munsifs. In addition, 8 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 2 the powers of a Munsif. Judicial staff.

During the year the permanent Judicial Staff in the District and Subordinate Courts was increased by the addition of 1 Subordinate Judge and 5 Munsifs. The Subordinate Judge was added to the permanent staff of the district of the 24-Parganas, where he had previously been employed for some time. Of the 5 Munsifs, 4 were transferred from the cadre of the Central Provinces to that of Bengal and were allotted to Sambalpur. The remaining Munsif was added to the permanent staff at Puri in the district of Cuttack, where temporary assistance had been employed for a considerable period.

In addition to the permanent staff, some temporary officers were employed during the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

162. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1905 was 1,100, including 31 pending suits received by Original suits instituted.

transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1906 was 1,072 including 17 suits received by transfer from other courts during the year, making a total of 2,172 for disposal in 1906. Of the suits instituted during 1906, 616 were for money or moveable property, 137 were mortgage suits, and 54 for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 59,35,601-0-4, as compared with Rs. 50,86,664-6-2 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

163. The number of suits decided in 1906 was 994, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,178. The number of suits under trial was 78 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 515 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 5 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 202 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution: 36 were withdrawn with leave: 61 were determined by compromise: 76 were decreed on confession: 163 were decreed *ex-parte*: 2 were dismissed *ex-parte*: 22 were disposed of by reference to arbitration: 347 were decreed after contest: 69 were dismissed after contest.

Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

164. At the commencement of the year two suits were pending in the High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, and three suits were transferred to it during the year. All of them remained pending at the close of the year.

Probates and Letters of Administration.

165. There were disposed of during the year 434 petitions for Probate and Letters of Administration, 3,448 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards' Act, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of Receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.), and 900 applications for summonses to witnesses. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, and for summonses as to chamber applications, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The Registrar and the Master also disposed of applications for summonses to witnesses.

References to take accounts.

166. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc, pending at the commencement of the year was 150. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 338 cases. Of the total number of references, 373 were disposed of by the Registrar and the Official Referee and their Assistants.

The Second Assistant Registrar examined 78 accounts submitted by Receivers appointed by this Court, and the Fifth Assistant Registrar examined 72 accounts.

Proclamations under section 287.

167. During the year the Registrar settled the proclamations of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in 42 cases, in all of which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. He also settled 39 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 37 cases under the Civil Procedure Code, and in 267 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from Original Jurisdiction.

168. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of Court pending at the commencement of 1906 was 23, and 56 new appeals were preferred during the year. Of these appeals, 29 were dismissed for default and 39 were decided; the decrees of the Court of First Instance were affirmed in 32 cases, reversed in 6, and modified in 1. Eleven appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, including one pending more than a year.

Small Cause Court reference.

169. At the commencement of the year no such reference was pending, and none was made during the year under review.

Transfers from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

170. Twenty-nine cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 14 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 43 cases for disposal, 2 were decreed and 3 dismissed after trial, 1 was decreed *ex-parte*, 1 was decreed on confession, 1 was compromised, 1 was withdrawn with leave, and 7 were dismissed for default. The remaining 27 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Six applications under section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 8 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 4 applications were refused, in 6 cases the rule was discharged, and in 2 the records were called for and the High Court directed a re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Two cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

171. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 228, and the number instituted during the year was 251. Of the 479 cases for disposal, 272 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded in 62 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 210. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of, 136 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 99 were private persons, and 37 were persons employed in public and other offices.

Miscellaneous applications.

172. There were also disposed of during the year 36 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 855 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Duration of sittings.

173. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 29 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 51 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 129 days. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one Judge for 36 days. Appeals from the Original Side occupied a Bench of three Judges for 30 days, and a Special Bench of five Judges for 5 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

174 No appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, but three were admitted during the year. The transcript record in these cases was in course of preparation.

Receipts and Expenditure.

175. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1906 were Rs. 7,31,700 and Rs. 4,11,826 respectively.

Taxing office.

176. The number of bills taxed during the year was follows:—

Between Party and Party	671
" Attorney and Client	293

The Court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 18,337. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufussal Subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

177. The district of Champaran was removed from the Judgeship of Saran and included within the local limits of the Court of District Judge of Muzaffarpur; and the district of Darbhanga was removed from the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Muzaffarpur and constituted a new District Judgeship. The changes in both cases took effect from the 1st March 1906.

The Indpur outpost, subordinate to thana Katra, in the district of Bankura, which had been transferred to the Sadar Munsifi of Bankura in 1900, was re-transferred to the local jurisdiction of the Munsif of Katra.

Original suits instituted

178. The number of suits instituted in 1906 was 412,801, an increase of 22,840 and 9,186 on the figures of 1904 and 1905, respectively.

The increase occurred in title and money suits to the extent of 12·7 and 2·1 respectively. There was a slight decrease in the institutions of rent suits. The number of title suits instituted was 55,055 against 48,887 in 1905.

The total value of suits instituted in 1906 amounted to Rs. 6,59,23,756, showing a decrease of about six crores on the total for 1905. The difference is accounted for by the institution of a suit valued at six crores in the Champaran District in the previous year. for the recovery of the Bettiah Raj.

Local distribution.

179. In all the districts, with the exception of Midnapore, Darbhanga, Shahabad, Birbhum, the 24-Parganas and Burdwan, there was an increase in the number of suits instituted in 1906. The decline in Midnapore and Shahabad, which occurred chiefly in rent suits, is partially explained by the fact that a large number of such suits had been instituted on behalf of certain estates in the previous year. In Darbhanga the decrease may be ascribed to local conditions, as floods and scarcity prevailed during part of the year under review in that district. In Birbhum, the 24-Parganas and Burdwan the decrease calls for no notice.

Jessore, with institutions numbering over 48,000, again occupies the first place, the number of rent suits (28,808) instituted in the district being the

largest in the Province. The district of the 24-Parganas, where the number of suits instituted was over 41,000, is second in order. In the latter district the number of money suits (18,809) was, with the exception of Cuttack, the largest in the Province. In no other district did the suits instituted during the year reach 40,000.

In Midnapore and Bhagalpur institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000; the great number of these were rent suits. The largest number of title suits were instituted in the former district.

Institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the districts of Nadia, Hooghly, Cuttack and Murshidabad; and between 10,000 and 20,000 in Burdwan, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Saran, Darbhanga, Birbhum and Bankura.

In Shahabad, Chota Nagpur and Patna institutions were between 5,000 and 10,000. Gaya, with 3,023, continues to show the lowest number of institutions.

Nature of suits instituted.

180. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:—

	Rs.	Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.
Not exceeding	10	18,659	56,509	3,065
	50	78,481	96,988	13,700
	100	29,542	28,313	10,738
	500	25,137	19,152	20,245
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated		2,964	2,001	7,307
Total		154,783	202,963	55,055

In suits for money or moveables 62·7 per cent., and in rent suits 75·6 per cent., were for sums less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the Rent Law 98 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as the title suits, 50·4 per cent. were mortgage suits, 36·6 for immoveable property, and 4·9 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value nearly two-thirds of the total litigation of the province. All the 34 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, were title suits.

Number of suits disposed of.

181. In addition to the 412,801 suits instituted during the year and the 70,191 suits pending trial from the previous year, there were 11,341 suits revived, or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 4,94,333.

The number of suits disposed of was 4,20,856. The number was in excess of that for 1905 by 11,020, and of that of 1904 by 20,463.

Of the total disposed of, 396,643 were disposed of by Munsifs, 11,283 by Subordinate Judges, 12,477 by Small Cause Court Judges and 453 by District and Additional Judges.

Results of suits decided.

182. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 86,466 cases, or 20·5 per cent., of which 60,233 were dismissed for default in 71,121 cases, or 16·9 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 263,269 cases or 62·6 per cent.

Of the 71,193 suits decided on contest, 57,531, or 80·8 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 13,692, or 19·2 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for re-trial.

183. The proportion of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex-parte*, was 8·7, the numbers being 22,065 and 254,398, respectively. The applications were successful in 10,571 cases, or 47·9 per cent., the proportion being slightly smaller than in the previous year.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

184. The suits disposed of by Munsifs were 9,723 more than in the last year. The increase is under both contested and uncontested suits, being 1,434 and 8,289, respectively, on the figures of the previous year.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,292. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 26·3 per cent. of the total.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1906 was 64,880 or 16·3 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 375. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 17·7, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 12·5.

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure exceeded that of 1905 by 2,738.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

185. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1906 was 11,283, an increase of 777 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and occurred chiefly in uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 5,070, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,213; of these 44·4 per cent. and 21 per cent., respectively, were contested.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

186. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 12,477 original suits, of which 2,584 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

187. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	181	296	156	...
	Uncontested ...	112	175	84	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	60	57	53
	Uncontested ...	...	44	37	41

The results show an increase in the duration of contested cases before District Judges. A considerable reduction was, however, effected in the courts of Subordinate Judges. The comparison, as regards Munsifs, is, on the whole, favourable.

Pending suits.

188. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 70,126 as against 70,191 in the previous year. The decrease, though slight, is notable in view of the increased number of institutions.

Of the pending cases, 700 had been pending for more than a year, 4,811 for more than six months, and 26,843 for more than three months The figures show a decrease, as compared with the two preceding years, in the number of suits pending for more than a year. The improvement is, however, entirely due to the figures for the Munsifs' Courts, as the other Courts show 32 more suits pending for over a year than in the year 1905. Of the suits pending over one year, 290 were in the Courts of Munsifs, and 410 in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Bhagalpur (161), which district headed the list last year also; Darbhanga (118); Hooghly (63); the 24-Parganas (61); and Patna (40).

The increase in the number of long pending suits in Bhagalpur is unsatisfactory, especially in the case of the superior courts, in view of the fact that an extra Subordinate Judge was employed in the district throughout the year. There was, however, a considerable increase of institutions in this district. In Darbhanga the increase is partially explained by the fact that in a large number of cases the proceedings had been stayed by the orders of the High Court. In Hooghly there was a congestion in nearly all classes of work in the superior Courts.

Execution proceedings.

189. There were 71,319 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 298,741 such applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 112,533 cases and partial in 66,746. In 110,471 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 67,261 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realised in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,61,51,401.

Debtors were imprisoned in 187 cases, moveable property was sold in 6,034 and immoveable in 52,421.

Miscellaneous cases.

190. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 53,734 in 1905 to 57,136; the number disposed of from 53,360 to 56,607, and the number pending from 13,098 to 13,637. Of the cases disposed of 23,370 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 15,159 were decided *ex-parte*; and 18,078 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 51·8 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases

78 had been pending more than a year, of which 48 were in the 24-Parganas. The relative proportions of the above figures show no noteworthy fluctuation.

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 14,823 in number. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 15,433, and the pending file fell to 1,878. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in Hooghly (1,241), Muzaffarpur (1,094), Bhagalpur (870), Birbhum (816), the 24-Parganas (716), Jessore (651), Midnapore (644), and Shahabad (573). There was a slight increase in the number of cases of this class instituted in 1906.

II.—*Calcutta Small Cause Court.*

Number of suits.

191. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1906, and the number pending at its close, was 21,578, 22,451, and 2,454, respectively. Both institutions and disposals show an appreciable increase on the previous year's figures; and the number of pending suits was less than in 1905 by 51.

The increase in institutions was chiefly in suits of lower value. There was a slight increase in suits valued at over Rs. 500. The number of suits above Rs. 1,000 fell off from 654 to 625.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 35,58,117 during the year, as against Rs. 33,41,258 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested cases in the year under review was 48·4 and 42·3 days, respectively, shewing a perceptible increase over the figures of 1905. The increase in respect of contested cases is attributed to the failure of the Registrar to exercise due discretion in granting adjournments. The increase in the duration of uncontested cases has not been satisfactorily explained. The chief reason assigned is that a large number of suits were instituted during the year, in which the defendants being resident outside the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Court, more time was occupied in the hearing of the cases.

Mode of disposal.

192. Of the 22,451 suits disposed of during the year, 1,558 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave, 17,545 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,345 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in three the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised ...	6,618
Decreed on confession	3,823
Decreed *ex-parte* ...	7,086
Dismissed *ex-parte* ...	18
Total ...	17,545

Of the 2,454 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1906, 53 had been pending for more than three months, against 14 so pending at the close of the preceding year.

Execution of decrees.

193. Of the 33,507 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 803 were pending from the previous year, 32,591 were determined and 916 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 299 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 26,866 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,543 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 2,182 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 9,42,127, as compared with Rs. 8,13,891 in the previous year.

Coercive processes.

194. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 90 cases, and sale of moveables in 1,297. These figures are greater in both cases than in 1905, and the increased number of cases in which the sale of moveables was ordered is noticeable.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—*High Court.*

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

195. Under section 15 of the Letters Patent, there were 56 appeals filed during the year, and 23 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 68 were decided, and 11 remained pending at the close of the year. The number

of appeals disposed of was seventeen less than in 1905. Of the number undecided, only one was pending for more than a year. One hundred and twenty-seven Third Appeals were filed during the year, and 31 were pending at its commencement. Of these appeals, 72 were decided, and 86 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

196. The number of First and Second Appeals from the Decrees and Orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the Courts of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders, and of Second Appeals from Decrees and Orders, were, respectively, 32, 5, 150 and 27 less than in 1905.

	Pending at the end of 1905.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1906.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From Decrees ...	1,086	499	624	961
From Orders ...	450	287	375	362
SECOND APPEALS.				
From Decrees ...	3,581	2,499	3,114	2,966
From Orders ...	164	271	323	112
Total ...	5,281	3,556	4,436	4,401

Appeals decided.

197. The number of Second Appeals from Decrees decided is fewer than that of 1905 by 1,145; while the disposals of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders, and Second Appeals from Orders, exceed the disposals of 1905 by 8, 88, and 63, respectively. The large decrease in the disposals of Second Appeals when compared with the figures for 1905 is due to the fact that in that year an Additional Judge sat continuously.

Appeals pending.

198. At the close of the year, there were pending 1,323 First Appeals, of which 961 were from decrees and 362 from orders, and 3,078 Second Appeals, of which 2,966 were from decrees. The total is less than the numbers pending at the close of 1905 and 1904 by 880 and 2,532, respectively.

Results of Appeals.

199. Of the 624 appeals from Original Decrees decided during the year, 199 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 275 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 69 reversed, 53 varied, and 28 remanded.

Of the 3,114 appeals from Appellate Decrees, 142 were uncontested, and 889 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code. Two thousand and eighty-three were heard and determined, with the result that 1,564 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 129 reversed, 62 varied, and 328 remanded.

Of the 698 appeals from Orders decided during the last year, 105 were uncontested, 124 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 469 were decided after trial. Of the last, 330 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 73 reversed, 17 varied, and 49 remanded.

The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

	Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from Original decrees ..	116	159	43	79
Appeals from Appellate decrees ..	824	740	81	110
Miscellaneous appeals	178	152	57	33

Appeals to the Privy Council.

200. At the opening of the year 18 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 48 were pending for orders. One hundred and eleven new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 37 were struck off or compromised, 14 were despatched to England, and 126 appeals—1 of 1902, 31 of 1905, and 94 of 1906—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 34 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of Appeals to the Privy Council.

201. The results of 6 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 4 instances, and reversed in 2.

III.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

202. There were 12,194 appeals instituted in 1906—an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 1,064.

Of the number instituted in 1906, 5,379 were in title suits, 5,260 in rent suits, and 1,555 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows an increase in all the three classes.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,303 and 3,574, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the Subordinate Courts in 1906 was Rs. 25,24,903, being more than the total of 1905 by over two lakhs.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by Subordinate Courts during the year, was 52,222; and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 22·7 per cent. The highest percentages were 40 in Chota Nagpur, 35·1 in Gaya, 32·6 in Cuttack, and 32·1 in Patna; and the lowest was 12·6 in Purnea.

The number of appeals instituted in 1906 was larger than in the previous year in fifteen districts and smaller in four. The largest increases were in Cuttack (291), Purnea (190), Burdwan (173), the 24-Parganas (156), Muzaffarpur (120), Chota Nagpur (109) and Jessore (106); and the noticeable decreases were in Darbhanga (282) and Patna (116). In the remaining districts, the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

203. The number of appeals decided (12,427) was smaller than in 1905 by 395, but was in excess of the number preferred. The decrease in disposals was in the Courts of District and Additional Judges, while in those of Subordinate Judges there was an increase of 678, compared with the previous year.

The general decrease in disposals was spread over seven districts, the largest being in the 24-Parganas (831), Nadia (539), Darbhanga (337), Gaya (139) and Patna (110). The fall in disposals in the 24-Parganas is explained by the fact that during the greater part of the year, there was only one Additional Judge in the district whose time was occupied by Sessions and Land Acquisition work. In Nadia the decrease is in some degree explained by the fact that a large number of appeals disposed of in the preceding year were analogous. The explanations given in the case of the other districts have been considered by the Court in reviewing the district reports, and the necessary orders have been passed.

Appeals pending.

204. There were 5,246 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 248 more than at the end of 1905.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year was further reduced during the year, there being at its close 90, as compared with 137 in 1905 and 541 in 1904. The steady reduction in the number of appeals pending over one year is a matter for satisfaction.

Result of Appeals.

205. The result on the decisions of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 6,935 cases, or 55·8 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 1,213 cases, or 9·7 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,065, or 16·6 per cent., it was reversed. The relative proportions of the above figures call for no explanation. Seven hundred and fifty-five appeals were remanded, and 1,459 were either not prosecuted, or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous Appeals.

206. There were 2,287 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 2,388 were disposed of, 440 remaining pending at the close of the year. The number pending is 65 less than that of the previous year, but a further reduction in the pending files of this class of appeals is desirable.

General.

207. Notwithstanding the reduced staff and consequent falling off in disposals on the Appellate Side of the High Court, the pending file was appreciably smaller than that of the preceding year. The appointment of the Additional Judge of the High Court sanctioned in 1904 was continued, but the services of the full staff of Judges were not available throughout the year. The working of the Subordinate Courts was marked by a still further increase

in the institutions of original suits; and it is a gratifying feature that the disposals increased to such an extent that the pending file was smaller than that of the preceding year. The increase of institutions, coupled with the falling off in disposals, resulted in an increase of the appellate arrears of the Subordinate Courts. The smaller outturn of appellate work was due to the fact that owing to an increase of criminal work, District and Additional Judges devoted less time to Civil work. The number of days spent by District and Additional Judges on Civil work during the year under review was 2,561, or 76 and 158 days less than in 1905 and 1904, respectively.

Inspection.

208. The Courts of 14 Subordinate Judges and 76 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges during the year 1906. The District Judges of Burdwan, Gaya and Shahabad did no inspection at all. This is very unsatisfactory, especially in the case of Burdwan, where no inspection was made in the previous year, and the matter has been brought to the notice of the officers concerned. In Hooghly, Darbhanga, the 24-Parganas, and Chota Nagpur, the number of inspections was inadequate.

Receipts and Charges of the Civil Courts.

209. The receipts of the Civil Courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 84,57,151, an increase of Rs. 1,93,667 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 42,51,177, an increase of Rs. 1,41,204 on those of 1905. Including the amount realised on account of duty* on Probates, etc., there was a profit to Government from Civil litigation of Rs. 42,05,974, or Rs. 52,463 more than in 1905, and exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 37,34,170.

	Rs.
In the High Court	(a) 3,52,829
In other Courts	(a) 1,18,975
Total	4,71,804*

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1906-07.

Details of the receipts and changes are as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

		Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	15,79,187
	Other fees	63,31,718
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	1,770
	Copying and Comparing fees	3,39,517
	Other receipts	2,04,959
	Total	84,57,151

CHARGES.

		Rs.
Salaries of Judicial Officers		19,60,344
Establishment	Process servers	3,94,964
	Others	12,78,170
Copyists' fees		2,77,781
Contingencies and refunds		3,39,918
	Total	42,51,177

The increase in receipts was due to the rise in the volume of litigation. The increase in expenditure was chiefly under the head "Establishment," being over a lakh and a quarter more than in the preceding year.

SONTHAL PARGANAS AND ANGUL.

Sonthal Parganas. Civil Justice.

210. The total number of suits instituted was 15,464, of which 8,789 were money suits, 5,759 rent suits and 916 title suits. These figures represent total increase of 2,005 suits, or 14·9 per cent. over the total for the preceding year.

Results of suits.

211. The total number of regular suits disposed of (excluding those transferred to the Settlement Courts) was 14,687 against 12,937 in 1905. The increase in the number of suits is due to the introduction of stricter supervision and management in some estates, and to a wish to anticipate the revisional settlement proceedings in some cases. Out of the above number, 3,535 cases were disposed of without trial and 365 were referred to arbitration. Out of the balance, 28 per cent. were contested against 33·2 per cent. in the previous year. There was an increase of 2 per cent. in the number of applications for execution.

Appeals. 212. The number of appeals fell from 669 to 603, and in 61·9 per cent. of cases the original decrees were upheld.

The new Civil suit rules worked generally satisfactorily.

Angul Civil. 213. During the year 1906, 420 Civil cases were disposed of and 15 appeals were filed. The average duration of contested cases was 47 days and of uncontested cases 32 days.

Registration.

[Statistical returns with explanatory note of the Registration Department in Bengal, 1906; Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial and Part IX.—Administrative and General.

Reorganization. 214. Under the scheme of reorganisation of the Registration Department, which had been introduced with effect from 1st October 1905, sanction was given in the year under review to the payment by Government (1) of the salaries of the permanent clerical establishments of Sub-Registrars graded under the scheme, (2) of the remuneration of the extra establishments entertained by them at times of heavy presentations, (3) to the supply of stationery free of cost to such Sub-Registrars, and (4) of the cost of remittance by them of Registration fees to the Treasury.

Number of documents. 215. The total number of registrations of documents affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills increased from 793,231 in 1905 to 922,712 in 1906, *i.e.*, by 16 per cent.

The total income of the Department increased from Rs. 10,12,966 in 1905 to Rs. 11,73,545 in 1906, *i.e.* by 16 per cent.

The total expenditure increased from Rs. 5,21,355 in 1905 to Rs. 5,89,628 in 1906, *i.e.*, by 13 per cent.

The increase in the income was due to the increase in the number of registrations, and the increase in expenditure was due (1) to some of the changes under the scheme of reorganisation mentioned in paragraph 3 above; (2) to the payment of salaries of the 5th grade Sub-Registrars and probationers with effect from 1st October 1905, and (3) to the payment in 1906 of salaries of the establishments of graded Sub-Registrars for the last quarter of 1905.

Burdwan Division. 216. Registrations increased in 1906, as compared with 1905, in all the districts of the Division. In Burdwan, Birbhum and Midnapore the increases, 17 per cent. 14 per cent., and 12 per cent., respectively, are ascribed to the high prices of food-grains and to the operation of Act VI of 1904 (an Act further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882). In Burdwan the settlement of ghatwati lands, and in Birbhum the growth of trade in the larger towns owing to the prospect of opening of a new railway, contributed to the increase. In Midnapore perpetual leases increased by 33 per cent. It is reported that some holders of *debatter* lands, being unable to sell them legally, granted perpetual leases on handsome premia, reserving nominal annual rents.

Presidency Division. 217. In all the districts of the Division, the total number of registrations increased in 1906, as compared with 1905. In the 24-Parganas the increase (21 per cent.) is ascribed to the steady expansion of registrations in consequence of the gradual development of the district and its resources, such as the reclamation of the forest and waste lands, etc. In this district, as elsewhere, high prices for food-grains prevailed, and it is said that there was an unusual demand for land among the cultivators of jute, who have found such cultivation more profitable than that of paddy and other food-grains. The number of mortgages registered in 1906, as compared with 1905, increased by 32 per cent. owing to the operation of Act VI of 1904.

In Jessore the increase (14 per cent.) was due to the damage done to the crops of 1906 by floods, and it is reported that on the whole the condition of the people was not prosperous. In Murshidabad the increase (14 per cent.) was due to high prices, resettlements of estates, operation of Act VI of 1904, and to the growing demand for leases of plum trees for the cultivation of *lac*.

It is reported from Khulna, where the increase (6 per cent.) was not so marked as in the districts named above, that the cultivation of jute is extensively carried on and land is in great demand among the raiyats, an experience similar to that of the 24-Parganas.

Patna Division. 218. In the four north Gangetic districts of this Division, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran, registrations increased remarkably by 53

per cent., 41 per cent., 21 per cent., and 43 per cent., respectively, in 1906, as compared with 1905. In all these districts excessive floods and the untimely cessation of rains led to the failure of the principal crops. In Darbhanga, the great pressure of registrations at the Sadar office from October to the end of the year had to be relieved by the opening of two temporary joint offices. In the three south Gangetic districts of Patna, Shahabad and Gaya, better conditions prevailed, but the stress of high prices was felt, the result being a considerable rise in registrations in each district.

Bhagalpur Division.

219. Registrations increased considerably in all the districts of the Division. The largest percentage of increase (34 per cent.) occurred in Bhagalpur, the northern portion of which was seriously affected by floods.

In the Sonthal Parganas, the increase (26 per cent.) is ascribed to the partial failure of crops, scarcity of food-grains, and the recognition of sales of land in Pakaur and Dumka in the course of the settlement operations. The growth of the industry in lac in the subdivision of Pakaur also contributed to the increase.

Orissa Division.

220. Registrations increased in all the districts of the Division and prices of food-grains ruled high owing to excessive exports. It is reported from Cuttack that a large number of merchants from Calcutta, Madras and elsewhere opened depôts in the interior of the district for the export of grains, and the raiyats failing to resist the temptation of getting ready money parted with their grains.

Chota Nagpur Division.

221. In all the districts of the Division except Palamau (in which there was a small decrease of 5 per cent.) registrations increased. The largest percentage of increase (18 per cent.) occurred in the district of Ranchi. The bulk of the increase came from leases for terms of years, which increased by 26 per cent. in 1906 as compared with 1905, on account of the approaching settlement operations. Perpetual leases, on the other hand, decreased by 26 per cent. owing to the operation of section 10B of the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act, I of 1879, as amended by Act V (B.C.) of 1903. The decrease in Palamau was due to a large fall in the number of registrations in the experimental office at Latihar. In Manbhum, registrations remained almost stationary in 1906, as compared with 1905. In Hazaribagh, mortgages increased by 22 per cent. on account of the operation of Act VI of 1894, which made the registration of deeds of mortgage of value less than Rs. 100 compulsory.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

222. The number of Companies existing at the close of the year was 446 with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 26,03,56,709 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 17,54,04,519, against 459 Companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 23,96,81,609, and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,30,96,647 existing at the close of the year 1905-06. There was thus a decrease of 13 in the number of Companies, and an increase of Rs. 2,06,75,100 in the nominal capital, and of Rs. 23,07,872 in the paid-up capital. The decrease in the number of Companies is mainly due to the fact that 72 Companies, with a nominal capital of Rs. 60,08,400 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 38,50,615 whose registered offices are situated in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam were transferred to the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies of Eastern Bengal and Assam under orders of the Government of Bengal, Nos. 1380-81P.—D., dated the 11th July 1906. One Company, limited by guarantee was also transferred to the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies, Eastern Bengal and Assam.

There were 73 new Companies registered during the year under report, of which two wound up their business during the year. Therefore 71 new Companies with a total nominal capital of Rs. 2,73,62,500 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 6,22,400 were registered against 45 Companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 2,01,08,500 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 18,27,800 registered during the previous year. Of these 32 were Trading Companies and 20 Coal Companies.

Sixty-nine Companies increased their capital during the year. Of these six Companies increased their nominal capital only. Fifty-seven Companies increased their paid-up capital only and six Companies increased both their nominal and paid-up capitals. The registration of a large number of coal as well as Trading Companies indicates considerable commercial activity.

One Native Provident Society, with a nominal capital of Rs. 10,000, was registered during the year.

Twelve Companies, having an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 36,46,000 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 31,38,225, ceased to work during the year.

Working of Act XXI of of 1860.

223. The following Societies were registered during the year under Act XXI of 1860 :—

(1) National Council of Education in Bengal; (2) Society for the promotion of Technical Education in Bengal; (3) Behala Hitakari Sabha; (4) Sasipada Institute; (5) Bangadeshiya Kayastha Sabha; (6) Calcutta Diocesan Seamen's Mission; (7) Silpa Samiti.

The fees realized during the year were Rs. 22,262-12, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 983, leaving a nett revenue of Rs. 21,279-12 to the credit of Government as against Rs. 14,149-10-6, being the net revenue of the previous year.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act.

224. There were 39 marriages registered during the year under review as against 32 in the previous year. Twenty-six marriages were registered in Calcutta, two each in Howrah, Hooghly and Hazaribagh and one each in Burdwan, Midnapore, Khulna, Bhagalpur, Patna, Cuttack and Balasore. There were 19 Marriage Registrars under the Act, besides 24 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars. Of these only 12 Marriage Registrars and *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 20 to 40 and those of the brides from 14½ to 41 years. Four widows, whose ages ranged from 18 to about 27 years, were re-married.

Working of Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

225. As in the previous year, Act I (B.C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 18 districts. The number of offices at work at the close of the year under review was the same (121) as during the preceding year. The office at Bundu in the district of Ranchi was abolished during the year under review and its jurisdiction distributed between the offices at Ranchi and Lohardaga. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year was 3,852 against 3,695 in the previous year, showing an increase of 157, or 4·2 per cent., most of which occurred in the district of Khulna. Excluding 31 offices in which there was no work, registration took place in 90 offices, and the average number of registrations in each office was 43 in 1906-07, against 40 in the previous year.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1906-07: Statistics of British India, Part VIII,—Local Funds.]

General.

226. The number of Municipalities in the Province during the year under review was 128, as in the preceding year.

Collections.

227. The percentage of total collections on the current demand rose from 96·46 to 97·1 at the close of the year, the outstanding demands being only 4·9 per cent. of the total current demand. There was a marked improvement in this respect in the Chota Nagpur and Patna Divisions, where the percentage of collections on current demand rose from 95·9 to 100·2 and 99·9, respectively. Twenty-four Municipalities, as compared with 13 in the previous year, collected cent. per cent. or more of their current demand. The best results were obtained in the Municipalities of Ulubaria, Arrah, Chaibassa and Hajipur. In the 10 towns Arambagh, Titagarh, Garulia, Jagdispur, Lalganj, Sitamarhi, Roserha, Kurseong, Deoghar and Daltonganj, there was nothing outstanding at the close of the year. The percentage of total remissions on current demand also fell from 4·27 to 3·5, the highest percentage being shown in the Bhagalpur and the lowest in the Orissa Division. The total outstanding balance was Rs. 1,62,910, as compared with Rs. 1,78,944 in 1905-06.

Results of elections.

228. General elections of Commissioners were held in 52 Municipalities, which were successful in all cases, except in one ward each in the South Suburban and Baruipur Municipalities in the Presidency Division. In these cases Commissioners were appointed by Government under section 16 of the Act. The majority of the elections were contested, and the percentage of attendance of persons entitled to vote varied between 91·7 in Ward No. IV

of the Jainagar Municipality in the Presidency Division and 1·5 in Ward B of the Monghyr Municipality. On the whole, there was no indication of a decline of public interest in Municipal affairs.

Attendance at Meetings.

229. The total number of meetings held was 2,077, of which 146 were adjourned, against 2,138 meetings in 1905-06, of which 177 were adjourned. The largest number of meetings was held by the Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur (43) and Kalna (39). Twenty municipalities failed to hold one meeting a month on the average, and at Baranagar only seven meetings were held. The average percentage of attendance of Commissioners was 55·71, against 53·55; while in 89 Municipalities, as against 78 in 1905-06, an average of more than one-half of the total number of Commissioners attended at each meeting. The highest percentage of attendance was obtained at Buxar (88·8), Baidyabati (85·6), Bihar (83·7), and in the South Suburban Municipality (80·0). The attendance was bad at Patna (38·7), Khulna (38·2), Jangipur (28·8), Giridih (28·6), Chatra (28·5) and Maheshpur (7·8).

Assessment and Taxation.

230. The rate on holdings is levied in 48 Municipalities, and in certain portions of the Bhadreswar, South Dum-Dum, Garulia, Bihar, Bettiah, Darbhanga and Deoghar Municipalities. The Municipal Commissioners of Arrah have resolved to take advantage of the proposed revision of the personal tax during the current year to ascertain carefully the valuation of holdings with a view to estimating the financial effect of the proposed change from the tax on persons to a tax on holdings. Famine operations absorbed the attention of the local authorities at Darbhanga, and the question has not yet been considered in that town. The rate on holdings was levied at less than the maximum rate allowed by law in 13 towns. Of the special rates, the latrine-rate was levied in 91 towns, the water-rate in 13 towns which are provided with a supply of filtered water, and the lighting-rate in the towns of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Darjeeling only.

The incidence of Municipal taxation for the whole Province was Re. 1-5-11, showing an increase of 10 pies per head over that of the previous year. The incidence varied between Rs. 8-15-11 per head in Darjeeling and As. 4-6 in Debhatta in the district of Khulna.

Revision of assessment.

231. Assessments were revised during the year generally or partially in 50 Municipalities. Among those towns in which a general revision took place, substantial increases were obtained in the following:—

Name of Municipality.	Increase of revenue. Rs.
Bhagalpur	12,667
Berhampore	8,322
Bhatpara	6,008
Monghyr	5,425
Budge-Budge	4,880
Bhadreswar	3,892
Tollyganj	3,556
South Suburban	3,248
Gaya	3,000
Patna	2,985

Fresh imposts levied during the year.

232. A lighting-rate was for the first time imposed in the Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala. The Hackney Carriage Act was extended to the towns of Budge-Budge and Satkhira and to the area recently added to the Garden Reach Municipality. Part IX of the Act was extended to the towns of Barh and Siwan and to the remaining portion of the Tollyganj Municipality. Fees under section 261 for licenses granted for special trades were introduced in the Municipalities of Khulna and Jajpur, and, in the case of brick-kilns only, at Arambagh. At Vishnupur, fees for licenses for pig-styes were levied under section 265 of the Act.

Income and expenditure.

233. The total receipts of the Municipalities, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 61,91,760, against Rs. 57,25,680 in the preceding year. The increase occurred under the following heads:—Taxation (Rs. 1,38,000), Grants Rs. (46,000), Deposits Rs. (1,24,000) and Opening Balance Rs, (1,71,000). The total expenditure was Rs. 51,41,558, against Rs. 47,83,368 in 1905-06. The more important variations are explained in the paragraphs relating to expenditure below.

Closing balances of Municipalities.

234. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 10,50,202, against Rs. 9,42,312 in the previous year. The inclusion of unspent balances of loans or grants from Government accounts for this increase in most cases, but the large balances in Titagarh, Maniktala, Bhagalpur, Patna, Ranchi and Bhatpara might probably have been considerably reduced. A sufficient working balance was generally maintained, but in Baduria it fell to Rs. 46 only.

INCOME.

Income.

235. Excluding the receipts under "Extraordinary and Debt," the total revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 42,46,298, against Rs. 40,31,221 in the preceding year. The bulk of the increase was contributed by the Chota Nagpur Division.

Octroi Tax.

236. The net receipts from this tax, after deducting refunds, amounted to Rs. 29,276, against Rs. 27,901 in 1905-06, showing an increase of Rs. 1,375. The tax is levied only in the Sambalpur Municipality.

Tax on houses and lands.

237. The total revenue showed an increase of Rs. 66,604 as compared with the previous year. The increase was shared by all the Divisions, the improvement being most marked in the Municipalities of Gaya (Rs. 6,950), Bhagalpur (Rs. 4,955), Monghyr (Rs. 4,112), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 3,273) and Muzaffarpur (Rs. 2,507). The increase in Gaya resulted from the realisation of arrears of tax due on the railway premises and better collection of the current tax. In Muzaffarpur it was due to the realisation of arrears of the previous year. There was a marked decrease in Burdwan, which is attributed to the non-realization of taxes on account of objections to the revised assessment.

Tax on Animals and Vehicles.

238. The receipts show an increase of Rs. 7,424 over those of the preceding year. The increase in Kishanganj (Rs. 2,399) is attributed to the larger number of carts that ply within the Municipality on account of the extensive jute cultivation in the locality. The tax was levied for the first time in the Katihar Municipality, and brought in an income of Rs. 684. There were also increases in the Presidency, Patna and Burdwan Divisions, due in some cases to closer supervision, and in others to the registration of a larger number of carts which found employment owing, it is said, to the heavy exports of rice.

Tolls on Roads and Ferries.

239. The receipts under this head are made up of tolls on roads in Sambalpur and the income from ferries in 31 Municipalities. The receipts from ferries rose from Rs. 90,943 to Rs. 1,08,851, the bulk being contributed by the Patna Division (Rs. 14,447). The improvement in the Patna and Muzaffarpur Municipalities (Rs. 10,511 and Rs. 2,393, respectively) is reported to have been due to better settlements.

Water-rate.

240. This tax was in force in 13 Municipalities, as in the previous year. The total revenue showed an increase of Rs. 13,341, the most noticeable improvement being obtained in the Municipalities of Bhagalpur (Rs. 3,164), Berhampore (Rs. 2,927) and Arrah (Rs. 2,144). The increase in Bhagalpur and Berhampore was due to revision of assessment during the year and to better collections; that in Arrah is attributed to better collections of both arrear and current demands.

Lighting-rate.

241. This rate was levied for the first time in the Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala, and brought in an income of Rs. 3,123 and Rs. 74, respectively. The rate is levied in two other Municipalities only, namely, Howrah and Darjeeling, where the income derived was Rs. 56,075 and Rs. 45,390, respectively, as compared with Rs. 55,788 and Rs. 38,456 in 1905-06. The increase in Darjeeling is due to the supply of additional electric current to private persons.

Conservancy, including scavenging and latrine-rate.

242. The revenue under this head increased by Rs. 39,016. The improvement was general, but was most marked in the Presidency (Rs. 14,312) and Patna (Rs. 10,913) Divisions. Among Municipalities the increase was largest in Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 6,752), Garden Reach (Rs. 4,847) and Darbhanga (Rs. 3,695). In Cossipore-Chitpur it is ascribed to the revision of the scale of fees, and in Garden Reach and Darbhanga to the levy of the rate in added areas. The Kamarhati Municipality showed a large decline (Rs. 3,150), due to remissions granted to the local jute mills on account of

their septic tank installations. It is disappointing to notice how little income is obtained by the Municipalities in this Province from their trenching grounds, and the disposal of refuse and sweepings. In some Municipalities in other provinces, large sums are realised from this source. This indicates not only benefit to the Municipalities but also the utilization of a valuable aid to agriculture. In this Province this important matter is practically neglected altogether.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contributions.

243. The income from this source shows an increase of Rs. 46,379, due mainly to increased contributions from Local Funds, and also to grants from Government for plague prevention and other medical purposes. The increase occurred in the Patna Division (Rs. 88,498), Presidency Division (Rs. 27,905) and Orissa Division (Rs. 2,355); while in the Bhagalpur, Burdwan and Chota Nagpur Divisions there were decreases of Rs. 52,337, Rs. 17,661 and Rs. 2,381, respectively. The grants from Government amounted to Rs. 2,02,450, from Local Funds to Rs. 1,35,011 and from other sources to Rs. 1,30,008, against Rs. 2,07,346, Rs. 1,04,600 and Rs. 1,09,144, respectively, in 1905-06.

EXPENDITURE.

Office and Collection Establishment.

244. Under this head there was an increase of Rs. 19,474, while the percentage of such expenditure on total ordinary expenditure was 9·4, against 10·2 in the previous year. The largest decline in the percentage was in the Chota Nagpur Division, where it fell from 13·2 to 10·7, while there was a rise of 1 per cent. in the Burdwan Division. Taking individual Municipalities, the percentages varied between 27·1 in Gobardanga, in the 24-Parganas, and 2·9 in Motihari, the head-quarters of the district of Champaran, where the percentage was affected by unusually heavy expenditure incurred on the local hospital building during the year.

Prevention of fire.

245. Most of the expenditure under this head (Rs. 30,644) was, as in former years, incurred by the Municipalities of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Garden Reach, which contributed towards the cost of the Calcutta Fire Brigade. The Darjeeling Municipality spent Rs. 20,245 on the Fire Brigade established for that town during the year.

Lighting.

246. The total expenditure fell by Rs. 8,882. The towns of Howrah and Darjeeling show a decrease under this head of Rs. 8,732 and Rs. 11,034, respectively: in the rest of the Province there was a slight increase.

Water-supply.

247. The aggregate expenditure under this head shows an increase of Rs. 97,488, which occurred almost entirely under capital outlay, maintenance charges remaining practically stationary, and which was shared by the Municipalities of Maniktala (Rs. 55,593), Tollyganj (Rs. 7,000), Khulna (Rs. 9,473) and Gaya (Rs. 31,000). At Maniktala and Khulna the water-supply has been further extended. At Tollyganj works for the supply of filtered water from the Calcutta mains have been constructed. The administrative approval of Government has been conveyed to a scheme for installing water-works at Gaya at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,30,000; subscriptions amounting to about two lakhs of rupees have been raised locally for the purpose, and a contribution will be made from Provincial Revenues towards the cost of the scheme. An important scheme of water-supply for the Municipality of Monghyr at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,46,715 has also been prepared, and it is hoped that the inception of the work may not be long delayed, as the town has suffered much from outbreaks of disease in recent years. Schemes are also under preparation for Puri, Serampore, Jessore and Kurseong.

Reports by Sanitary Board on water-supply.

248. The Sanitary Board have reported generally that the management of Municipal water-works installations in the Province has been satisfactory. The Howrah Municipality has maintained its high record, examination of the water supplied having shown that it is of excellent quality, while the cost of supply was only 1·1 anna per 1,000 gallons, which is the lowest in the Province. Arrah returns the highest cost, viz., 5·1 annas per 1,000 gallons, but this is chiefly due to the small quantity of water delivered from the works as compared with other towns. The average daily supply at Howrah was 1,925,377 gallons; and the number of new house-connections made during the year was 215,

bringing the total number to 4,011. In Burdwan, where one portion of the town is served, the supply of water was abundant. The scheme for the extension of water-supply to the portion of the town lying on the other side of the Banka river, which runs through the Municipality, is still under the consideration of the Commissioners. At Berhampore the administration of the water-works showed further improvement, and the cost of maintenance was reduced from Rs. 16,845 in 1905-06 to Rs. 13,297, which was more than met by the receipts from the water-rate. The Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, made a special enquiry in regard to the assertion that the introduction of the filtered water-supply had produced no effect on the mortality of the town. He reports that there is no doubt that the supply of pure water has diminished the incidence of deaths from water-borne diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, etc., but that it has caused no appreciable reduction in the mortality from fever, nor is it likely to have such effect until a proper drainage scheme is carried out, in order to carry off the large volume of waste water, which now sinks into the soil and tends to maintain the damp and humid conditions so inimical to health. A comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the town is now under consideration.

Drainage.

249. The expenditure rose by Rs. 1,81,635 under capital outlay and by Rs. 4,939 on account of maintenance charges, most of the increase under the former head being due to the construction of drainage works for the southern foreshore area of the town of Howrah. These works were in progress during the year, and a scheme for the drainage of the northern foreshore area was under preparation. Titagarh showed an increase of Rs. 6,444, which represented a portion of the cost of the drainage scheme which is to be completed during the current year. A comprehensive scheme for the drainage of the Burdwan Municipality has been prepared. The Cossipore-Chitpur scheme has been revised, and the Maniktala scheme is also under revision in accordance with the instructions of the Sanitary Board. Drainage schemes for several other Municipalities in the 24-Parganas district are ready or in course of preparation. Levels were taken of the municipal area of Bettiah with a view to the preparation of a drainage scheme, and a complete scheme for the town of Monghyr is being drawn up under the supervision of the Assistant Sanitary Engineer. A survey has been made of the town of Hazaribagh for a similar purpose. The question of improving the drainage of the Bhagalpur Municipality was under the consideration of the Sanitary Board. A scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the town of Puri at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,29,838 has received the sanction of Government since the close of the year. The Municipal Committee intend to undertake at present the most urgent parts of the scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,25,000, towards which Government has, in view of the importance of the place as a centre of pilgrimage, sanctioned a grant of Rs. 75,000 from Provincial Revenues. It is evident that attention is being widely given to these most important subjects of water-supply and drainage.

Conservancy, including road-cleaning and road watering and latrines.

250. There was an increase of Rs. 67,079 in the expenditure under this head, which was shared by all the Divisions, except Burdwan, where the expenditure declined by Rs. 6,410. The increase was marked in the Presidency, Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, where it amounted to Rs. 39,616, Rs. 15,595 and Rs. 11,558, respectively. The Commissioners of the Presidency and Bhagalpur Divisions report that due attention was given by the Municipalities to this important branch of Municipal administration. The Sanitary Commissioner also reports that Municipal conservancy arrangements are steadily improving, and that almost all Municipalities now have proper trenching grounds, most of which are cultivated as a means for restoring the purity of the soil.

The four biological filters installed in the Howrah Municipality disposed of nearly 25,000 gallons of offensive sewage daily, and continued to work satisfactorily. The conservancy tramway line to Belgachia has much facilitated the disposal of night-soil in this Municipality. The improvement of two *bastis* was completed and five more have been taken in hand, 276 bighas of insanitary *basti* land having been dealt with during the year. The septic tank in the Muzaffapur Municipality has not proved altogether satisfactory,

and Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,000 from Provincial Revenues for further improvements in the installation. A sewage and septic tank scheme for Darjeeling received the administrative approval of Government after the close of the year: the scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 1,80,000, but for the present only the section intended to serve the Bhutia *basti* is to be proceeded with experimentally; and the cost of this will be borne by Government. The experience that will be gained should prove of the greatest value when the remainder of the scheme is taken up.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

251. The gross expenditure as shown in the accounts increased by Rs. 81,573: the increase is mainly due to the construction of a new hospital building at Motihari (Rs. 29,029), the equipment of the hospital at Berhampore (Rs. 17,581) and the extension of the Pilgrim Hospital at Gaya (Rs. 10,352). Deducting the contributions from Government and other sources, the interest on investments for medical purposes, and the income from "Fees and revenues from medical institutions" during 1906-07, the total net expenditure on hospitals from Municipal Revenues amounted to Rs. 1,64,825, against Rs. 1,99,444 shown in the Annual Dispensary Report for the calendar year 1906 as the net grant from Municipal Funds for that year.

Plague charges.

252. There was an increase of Rs. 25,516 in the outlay under this head. In many of the towns in Bihar the year was marked by severe outbreaks of plague. Liberal grants were made from Provincial Revenues towards measures adopted to combat the disease. The bulk of the expenditure (Rs. 64,706) was incurred in the Patna Division, where the Patna and Jagdispur Municipalities contributed Rs. 11,774 and Rs. 17,247, respectively, towards plague measures. The expenditure on this account in the Presidency (Rs. 14,254) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 14,973) Divisions was also considerable.

Vaccination.

253. The expenditure was practically the same as in 1905-06. The total number of children available for vaccination during the year was 53,863, of whom 47,016, or about 87·3 per cent., were successfully vaccinated.

Markets and Slaughter-houses.

254. The expenditure shows a large decline of Rs. 32,197, which is mainly accounted for by a decrease of Rs. 4,500 at Howrah, Rs. 10,833 at Chapra, and Rs. 8,973 at Puri. At all these places heavy charges were incurred in the previous year on original works for the improvement of the local Municipal markets.

Public Works.

255. There was a decrease of Rs. 50,331 under this head. The expenditure on the maintenance of roads declined in the aggregate from Rs. 5,01,857 to Rs. 4,48,463, whilst there was a small increase under the head "Stores." There was a decrease of Rs. 23,874 at Howrah; but it is reported that this is more apparent than real, as certain of the contractors did not submit their bills for road-repairs in time to be paid during the year. The expenditure also declined largely in the Municipalities of Darjeeling (Rs. 7,293), Bhagalpur (Rs. 6,293), Arrah (Rs. 4,236), Chapra (Rs. 3,724) and Gaya (Rs. 3,604). In Darjeeling the expenditure on roads was curtailed in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the Municipal finances. Delay in the collection of road metal accounts for the decline at Bhagalpur, while at Arrah the decrease is reported to have been due to the fact that certain roads had been metalled in the previous year. The decrease at Chapra is not explained. As regards Gaya, considering the requirements of the town and the general state of the roads, the drop in the expenditure is not satisfactory.

Public Instruction.

256. The outlay under this head rose by Rs. 9,565. The expenditure on primary education amounted to Rs. 80,317, which represents 3·18 per cent. of the ordinary income of the Municipalities, against 3 per cent. in 1905-06. As in the previous year, the percentage was highest in the Orissa Division (4·1) and lowest in Burdwan (2·5). The low figure in the latter Division is due to the small percentage (1·6) of expenditure on primary education in the Howrah Municipality. Taking the Province as a whole, the prescribed standard of 3·2 per cent. was almost attained.

Loans.

257. Thirty Municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and after excluding the sum of Rs. 1,11,339 on account of the accumulated balances of the Sinking Fund for the repayment of debenture loans. the total net indebtedness amounted to Rs. 36,24,915. The loan liabilities of Howrah alone amounted to Rs. 20,39,217. Five new loans were sanctioned during the year.

The Howrah Municipality drew one lakh of rupees out of a new loan of 1½ lakh for widening the roads on which the electric tramways are to be laid, and also drew the second instalment of one lakh out of a previous loan made for drainage works. Darjeeling received Rs. 30,000 for the extension of electric lighting, and Rs. 15,000 for a fire-brigade and for the water-works in the town. Ranchi obtained a loan of Rs. 11,000 for the construction of a *gola* in the municipal market, and Khirpai Rs. 1,000 for an office building. Titagarh drew the second instalment of Rs. 35,000 of the loan sanctioned for drainage works.

Working of the Porters' and Dandiwalas' Act.

258. The Act was in force in Darjeeling and Kurseong only. In the latter town there were seven prosecutions and one license was cancelled. In Darjeeling no case was instituted under the Act: it is remarkable that there has been only one prosecution in this municipality during the last two years.

Howrah Municipality.

259. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division has specially brought to the notice of Government the efficient manner in which the municipal administration of the important town of Howrah was conducted during the past year. The percentage of the total collections on the current demand remained much the same as last year, the figures being 97·3, as compared with 97·5; the outstanding balance was reduced from Rs. 9,019 to Rs. 7,014; while the percentage of total remissions on the current demand fell from 5·2 to 2·9. These figures are most satisfactory. The revised valuation, which was completed at the close of the year, raised the taxation from all sources by Rs. 2,13,000, and was carried out with great care in the face of considerable opposition and agitation. The objections raised against the revaluation were all very fully dealt with in this Government Resolution No. 1236T.—M., dated the 2nd October 1907. There can be no question that the value of many of the holdings in the town has largely increased, and that many had been greatly undervalued in the past. Howrah is a growing town, and it would have been impossible to meet the rapidly-increasing demand for improved roads, sanitation, lighting and water-supply with a nearly stationary income. The Commissioner's report shows that with the income available in 1906-1907 important progress has already been made. More than a lakh has been spent on widening and improving roads, and nearly half-a-lakh on the construction of certain portions of the sanctioned drainage scheme, which is being gradually carried out as funds permit; the number of lights has been increased, and the conservancy staff has been strengthened. A third extension of the water-works, which is estimated to cost Rs. 42,964, has been sanctioned by Government since the close of the year. The increase in the resources of the Committee expected from the new assessment will, it is hoped, lead to a higher standard of road maintenance and conservancy, the extension of the lighting and water-supply, the creation of new markets and public conveniences, and the completion of the drainage of the town.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1906-07, Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

General.

260. The past year has been marked by great activitity and considerable progress in every branch of the administration of this municipality. The two great pending schemes, that for remodelling and increasing the water-supply and the general Calcutta Improvement scheme, were under consideration. The former has been generally approved of by the Government of India, and the detailed plans and estimates are approaching completion. The outlines of the Improvement scheme, as laid down in the despatch of the Government of India in July 1905, were considered, especially as regards the financial aspect of the case, and the views of the Corporation were submitted to the Government of India.

It was proposed to sell the Town Hall to Government, but the matter was dropped mainly owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable site and of financing the construction of a new building.

Meetings.

261. The Corporation held 56 meetings. A time limit in speeches has been adopted. New Rules of Business came into force on 1st January 1907. The average attendance of Commissioners improved from 28 to 34 per meeting.

The General Committee held 51 meetings, with an average attendance of 10 members. It also appointed 16 Sub-Committees who held 107 meetings and did much useful work.

The Standing Committees continued to do useful work, and in consequence, the Corporation had to appoint only 17 Committees against 33 in the previous year.

262. The receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 70,96,984 and the expenditure to Rs. 73,64,041. About 3 lakhs of this was non-recurring expenditure. The actuals approximated fairly to the budget, and a balancing of recurring receipts against recurring expenditure leaves a small surplus of Rs. 4,429. Grain compensation allowance appears for the first time in the accounts, and Rs. 1,47,000 was expended under this head; the increased cost of establishment is about one lakh, mainly due to the employment of additional labour. Revenue Funds.

263. The opening balance was over 14 lakhs; nearly 13 lakhs were borrowed and nearly 2 lakhs were received from the sale of land. Out of this total of 29 lakhs, 20 lakhs were spent chiefly under the following heads—trunk water mains, suburban drainage scheme, footpaths and gowkhana. Loan Funds.

In future, the proposed date of flotation of loans as well as the amount must be sanctioned by the Government of India. The Port Commissioners have submitted a representation on this matter jointly with the Corporation.

The legal borrowing capacity of the Corporation is at present about 159 lakhs. The liability on loans already raised is over 395 lakhs.

264. The gross assessed valuation of the city rose by 7¾ lakhs during the year and now stands at Rs. 2,90,96,633. In 1897 it was Rs. 2,04,16,541 and in 1887 Rs. 1,42,25,226. The re-assessment of Wards 11 to 14 gave an increased valuation of nearly 24 per cent. Various improvements have been introduced in matters of detail in this department. In view of the rapid rise in the value of land, the Corporation favours leasing sites rather than selling them. The survey of the "added area" is finished and it is proposed to make accurate maps of each district and to record changes promptly on the old maps. Valuation and Assessment. Surveys.

265. The percentage of collection on the gross current demand reached 96·69. Only 20 distraints and five sales took place. The system of bonuses for the collecting staff on all collections over 95 per cent. is working well. A complete audit of the income of this Department has now been established, and it should render quite impossible defalcations such as that of nearly Rs. 17,000 last year, which the Collector and the bailiffs had to make good. Collections.

266. The income from licenses increased by Rs. 33,284 to Rs. 8,96,000, which is a record. Collections have improved considerably, concurrently with a marked decline in coercive measures, thanks to some simple administrative changes. Licenses.

267. During the past three years over 4½ miles of roads have been opened up through congested areas, and 2⅝ miles of these roads have been sewered. Persistent pressure on the owners has had its effect. The Corporation has spent Rs. 1,63,000 on improvements, and care is taken to align properly new bustee sites. Bustees.

268. The big scheme for the overhead reservoir and for a daily supply of filtered water amounting to 32 million gallons has been already noticed. Meanwhile the supply has been changed from intermittent to constant in the town proper; and an extension of two years has been granted to complete the furnishing of a continuous supply in the added area. Special measures are being taken to check the waste of water, which is about 23 per cent. of the supply. Water-supply.

269. About 13 miles of mains were laid in the added area to provide a flush for the new sewers and other improvements have been effected. Unfiltered water.

270. In April 1906, the Ballygunge pumping station was formally opened. This enables the whole of the sewers east of Tolly's Nullah to be brought into use, thus draining an area of 2,500 acres, with over 30 miles of roadside drains. The whole of the new city outfall works have been taken over from the contractors. They have proved thoroughly satisfactory, and storm water is now very rapidly carried away. It is hoped that the syphon under Tolly's Nullah will soon be completed, as on it depends the sewerage of Alipore and Kidderpore. Up to the close of the year, over 68 lakhs of rupees were expended on this great drainage scheme. Suburban Drainage.

Improvements and road repairs.

271. A sum of nearly 6 lakhs was expended on new roads and improvements in those existing, on flagging footpaths, laying kerbs, constructing channels and two bathing platforms. Council House Street was widened, the land being given free by Government.

On road repairs, about 4¾ lakhs were expended. The general question of the best material for Calcutta streets is being considered. There is a strong opinion in favour of wood paving.

The Tramway service is extending rapidly, new lines serving the Circular Road and Diamond Harbour Road having been opened.

Conservancy.

272. The arrangements have been improved by the introduction of a double service in three districts, and a continuous service, to some extent. A daily quantity of 1,250 tons is dealt with; this is 20 per cent higher than last year's figure. The Entally incinerator worked fairly well, but is still only an experiment.

Lighting.

273. During the year 342 new incandescent gas lamps have been erected in the place of oil lamps. The present contract for lighting expires in 1911, and new tenders have already been called for.

Health and Plague Department.

274. The birth-rate as recorded was only 17·7 per mille and the death-rate 35·7 per mille on the 1901 census figures. It seems about 10 per cent. of births escape registration. Infant mortality is still extremely high, and for this, bad feeding is mainly responsible. Cholera killed 2,504 and small-pox 2,905. Plague accounted for only 2,606 against 6,890, the annual average for the preceding four years. Dysentery, diarrhœa, tuberculosis and meningitis also took their toll. Calcutta is still comparatively immune from malarial fever in comparison with the districts generally, its death-rate from this cause varying from 3·1 to 5·8 per mille according to the month. The adjoining districts have monthly death-rates varying from 11 to 24 (24-Parganas), 7 to 23 (Howrah) and 20 to 49 (Nadia).

Markets.

275. The income from the Sir Stuart Hogg market rose to Rs. 2,65,107 and further expansion is anticipated. Extensions and improvements at an estimated outlay of ten lakhs (nearly) have been sanctioned.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

276. The number of cases tried rose from 8,967 to 11,133 and the fines from Rs. 52,036 to Rs. 55,670. There were 37 appeals, and the Magistrate's order was reversed in ten cases only.

Various contributions.

277. A sum of Rs. 35,000 was contributed to the Campbell Hospital, and some land urgently needed for extension of the hospital was given up by the Corporation, a suitable plot adjacent to the workshop being given in exchange.

Schools, primary and technical, received Rs. 19,485 from the Corporation; the allotments were based on the average daily attendance. Contributions equivalent to the rates leviable from them were given to certain institutions in addition, and this brings the whole amount thus devoted to educational purposes up to Rs. 33,685. A grant of Rs. 1,375 was made to free libraries and reading rooms.

These grants are made irrespective of all other aid given to the same institutions. It has been proposed that the Corporation should assume complete control of primary education, a sufficient grant being given by Government to meet the expenditure.

Hackney Carriage and other Departments.

278. Considerable improvements have been effected of late on these. All the first class vehicles are rubber-tyred, and it is expected that soon all the second class vehicles also will have rubber tyres. The horses or ponies still require considerable improvement.

The Legal, Secretary's, Printing and Building Departments were in full activity and did very useful work. By delegation of authority in the Building Department, plans are sanctioned more rapidly; and by improved supervision of the construction of buildings, deviations from the sanctioned plans are detected at an earlier stage.

The Puri Lodging-house Act, 1906-1907.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

279. The Act was extended during the year to some additional areas within the Jaipur subdivision of the district of Cuttack. Elsewhere the Act was in force in the same towns and areas as in the preceding year.

280. The number of lodging-houses licensed was practically the same as in 1905-1906, but the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided increased from 60,630 to 66,322. In the town of Puri, although the number of licensed lodging-houses fell from 730 to 694 and licenses were temporarily suspended on the recommendation of the Health Officer in 127 cases, the number of persons accommodated rose from 20,098 to 23,186. In 1902-1903 the number of licensed lodging-houses in the town of Puri was 1,827, and the decrease which has occurred in past years is very noticeable. It is probably largely due to the fact that many more pilgrims now visit the town by rail and return home at once. The Car festival was attended by about 70,000 people. Extent of application. Number of licensed lodging-houses.

281. The income of the lodging-house funds, excluding the opening balance, increased from Rs. 80,740 in 1905-1906 to Rs. 83,524, while the expenditure fell from Rs. 82,456 to Rs. 44,218. The reduction in expenditure is most noticeable in the towns of Gaya and Puri. In the former the decrease amounted to Rs. 22,632; this is due to the fact that all surplus funds are at present reserved for contribution towards the cost of the Gaya water-works scheme, as it is considered that the chief need of pilgrims visiting Gaya is a good and plentiful supply of drinking-water. In Puri, the decrease, amounting to Rs. 15,978, was due to the fact that less expenditure was incurred under the heads Original Works and Contributions. The accumulated balance at the credit of the Puri fund will, it is hoped, be available as a contribution to the drainage and water-works projects which it is proposed to carry out in that town. The closing balance for all the funds amounts to Rs. 68,470, and includes the unexpended loan of Rs. 8,000 made by Government during the year to the Deoghur Lodging-house Committe, and the sum set apart by the Gaya Lodging-house Committee for the water-works scheme. Financial.

282. Two hundred and sixty-seven persons were convicted of offences under the Act, as compared with 447 in 1905-1906, and the amount of fines realized fell from Rs. 9,194-8 to Rs. 4,461. The decrease is general, and is doubtless to some extent due to the fact that lodging-house keepers are becoming more familiar with the provisions of the rules, and are more ready to observe them. Offences under the Act.

283. The health of the pilgrims was generally good thoughout the year, though outbreaks of cholera occurred at Gaya and Puri; in Gaya, the number of deaths reported from this cause was 228 against 121 in 1905-1906, and the total mortality among pilgrims from all causes rose from 133 to 239; in Puri the number of deaths from cholera rose from 91 in 1905-1906 to 400, the total mortality being 723 as against 443 in 1905-06. Fever and dysentery contributed largely to the total mortality, while in Puri 30 persons died of small-pox. The sanitary arrangements of the lodging-houses were on the whole satisfactory, and the water-supply was good and sufficient. Health and General.

District Boards.

[The Reports from Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards during the year 1906-07; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

284. There was no change in the number of District Boards or Union Committees during the year. One new Local Board was constituted in the Giridih subdivision in the district of Hazaribagh. Constitution of District Boards.

The number of members was increased slightly in the case of the District Boards of Birbhum, Bankura, Hazaribagh and Ranchi: otherwise the constitution of the Boards remained practically unchanged. The total number of meetings held was 426, against 414 in the previous year: of these, 21 were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum. The District Board of Bhagalpur held the largest number of meetings (21), Shahabad and Monghyr following with 20 meetings each, and of the rest, only Hazaribagh, Sambalpur and Palamau failed to meet at least once a month. The average attendance at meetings (11·5) was practically the same as in 1905-06. Taking the numbers of members into consideration, the Presidency Division shows the best attendance, while Orissa is somewhat behind the other Divisions in this respect.

285. The total number of members of Local Boards increased from 942 to 946 owing chiefly to the formation of a new Local Board at Giridih. The Constitution of Local Boards.

Local Boards convened 899 meetings, or 27 more than in the previous year; but twenty-seven Local Boards failed to meet at least once a month, against 34 in 1905-06, and 122 meetings were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum. The new Local Board of Giridih and that of Govindpur held only four meetings each during the year, while the Northern Zamindari and Southern Zamindari Local Boards in Sambalpur held only one and two, respectively. There was an improvement in the attendance of both the official and non-official members, the total average attendance being 5·9, against 4·9 in the previous year.

Union Committees.

286. As in previous years, these Committees were in existence only in the Burdwan, Presidency and Orissa Divisions. The aggregate income of the 49 Union Committees rose from Rs. 15,263 to Rs. 18,582, and the total expenditure from Rs. 14,608 to Rs. 19,323. Twenty-four Union Committees expended the whole or nearly the whole of the allotment placed at their disposal. The Memari Union Committee in Burdwan and all the five Union Committees in the Orissa Division incurred no expenditure and did practically nothing during the year. With the exception of the Soro Union, no work has been done by these Union Committees during the past five years, and they appear to exist only in name. Useful work is reported to have been done by the Union Committees of Chanditola, Haripal, Pandua and Bolagore in the Hooghly district. In the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885, it is proposed to take larger powers for Union Committees in the matter of local sanitation, and it is hoped that with an increase of powers and responsibilities these bodies will evince a greater interest in their duties.

Financial results.

287. The opening gross credit balance of the year was Rs. 33,33,159, and the total receipts of the District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 72,08,880. The total amount available for expenditure was Rs. 1,05,42,039, of which Rs. 75,43,686 were disbursed during the year. The year closed with a credit balance of Rs. 29,98,353.

Comparative Table.

288. The table below compares the income and expenditure under the main heads of account in the past two years:—

INCOME.

	1905-06. Rs.	1906-07. Rs.
Provincial Rates	32,54,963	32,43,952
Interest	36,062	34,692
Police (Pounds)	3,15,522	3,32,923
Education	46,470	58,994
Medical	49,179	50,080
Scientific and other Minor Departments	17,292	20,397
Miscellaneous	1,83,630	1,32,232
Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation	6,271	5,790
Civil Works (including Ferries) ...	18,26,565	17,38,000
Contributions	8,01,983	6,97,394
Loans	...	1,10,000
Deposits and Advances	3,55,405	7,84,426
Total ...	68,93,342	72,08,880

EXPENDITURE.

	1905-06. Rs.	1906-07. Rs.
Administration	2,12,717	2,22,906
Police (Pounds)	24,378	25,253
Education	12,08,900	11,44,153
Medical	3,18,029	3,72,728
Scientific and other Minor Departments	44,624	56,422
Superannuation Allowance and Pension	45,045	31,567
Stationery and Printing	34,338	33,659
Miscellaneous	15,607	27,561
Famine Relief	...	2,96,772
Minor Works and Navigation ...	2,545	—1,280
Civil Works	36,10,384	43,77,497
Contributions	42,443	42,027
Interest on debt	5,682	4,486
Debt	3,43,052	9,09,935
Total ...	59,07,744	75,43,686

INCOME.

289. The income (Rs. 32,43,952) shows a decline in the aggregate of Rs. 11,011. The large decline in the Patna Division (Rs. 57,283) was due mainly to the decrease in the district of Darbhanga (Rs. 61,647), where short collections were made owing to famine. In Gaya the decrease (Rs. 35,793) was due to the non-payment of road cess till after the close of the year by the 7-annas Tikari and Maksudpur Estates. On the other hand, the realizations in Muzaffarpur increased by Rs. 40,463. Provincial Rates.

290. The income from pounds (Rs. 3,32,923) increased in the Divisions of Patna, Bhagalpur, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, and decreased in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, the net result being an improvement of Rs. 17,401. The increase is most marked in the Bhagalpur Division, where it amounted to Rs. 14,464, or 14·9 per cent. The larger income is due to better settlements, to successful realisation of arrear demands, and to better receipts from the sale of unclaimed stray cattle. In the Purnea district thorough enquiry into the working of the system was made by the District Board during the year, with a view to checking abuses and improving the collection of pound rents; and the results appear to have been most satisfactory. The income declined in ten districts, the decrease being most noticeable in Howrah (Rs. 1,738), where it was over 50 per cent. of the total collections, in Nadia (Rs. 1,713) and Sambalpur (Rs. 1,159). The decrease in Nadia is reported to be due to the short collection of pound rents owing to the unfavourable season and the recent floods in that district. Pounds.

291. The receipts from school fees (Rs. 58,994) remained practically unchanged, the improvement in the income under Education being caused by an increase under the sub-head "Contributions" in the Patna and Presidency Divisions, which was mainly due to contributions from the public towards the construction of Primary school buildings. Education.

292. The increase in the income under this head by Rs. 3,105 is mainly accounted for by the special grant of Rs. 2,500 made by Government to the Birbhum District Board for the establishment of a fodder farm in connection with the dairy established by the Board. Scientific and other Minor Departments.

293. The receipts under this head (Rs. 1,32,232) show a large decrease of Rs. 51,398. The decline, which was general throughout the Divisions, is chiefly under the sub-head "Recoveries on account of cost for collecting arrear cesses." The income of the Howrah District Board from its share in the profits from the Howrah-Amta Light Railway declined by Rs. 2,308, a sum of Rs. 5,000 having been set aside out of the profits for the construction of feeder roads; while the 24-Parganas District Board failed to credit to their accounts within the year the sum of Rs. 12,668, being the profits from Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway. In Nadia the income in the previous year was swollen by the receipt of Rs. 9,562 on account of the unspent balance in a land acquisition case. In Patna the rent of land and buildings, which was hitherto shown under this head, was transferred to the head "Civil Works." Miscellaneous.

294. Only two District Boards, viz., those of Jessore and Hazaribagh, derived any income from this source. The rent for the Halifax Canal yielded Rs. 5,700 to the Jessore District Board, and in Hazaribagh a small income of Rs. 90 accrued to the District Board as the cost of survey for small irrigation schemes in the estate of the Raja of Padma. Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation.

295. The returns show a decrease of Rs. 88,565 under this head, which occurred mainly under "Contributions" (Rs. 53,020) and "Tolls on ferries" (Rs. 20,409). In the Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions, however, the receipts under this head rose by Rs. 65,102 and Rs. 32,682, respectively. The large grant from Provincial Revenues for augmenting the resources of District Boards was continued during the year, the total amount of the grant being fixed at Rs. 9,00,000. The receipts from ferries rose in seventeen districts and fell in eleven. The largest decrease (Rs. 15,115) is returned from the Muzaffarpur district; this does not, however, represent an actual decline in the revenue, but was due to the fact that the security deposits on account of certain important ferries, leased out for three years in the year 1905-06, were credited to the District Fund during that year, and that the rents from other ferries were not credited in full during 1906-07. The falling off of Rs. 8,248 in Darbhanga was due mainly to remissions allowed to the farmers of ferries owing to the Civil works and Ferries.

stoppage of communications by floods. The decrease of Rs. 3,227 in Monghyr was due to failure on the part of certain farmers to pay the rent in full during the year, and also to the non-receipt from the District Board of Darbhanga of the Monghyr Board's share of receipts from certain ferries managed by the latter Board. In Howrah there was a decline of Rs. 3,968, which is more apparent than real, as the receipts in the previous year were swollen by the collections of arrears. Better settlements, realization of arrears and the opening of new ferries led to increase of revenue in other districts.

Contributions from Provincial to Local.

296. This head represents (*a*) the amount (Rs. 5,95,622) drawn during the year on account of the fixed assignment made to District Boards in order to establish equilibrium between the income and expenditure transferred to the Boards from the Provincial accounts, and (*b*) sums allotted for the improvement of roads in Government estates, which amounted to Rs. 33,819. The falling off of Rs. 1,04,589, in the aggregate income under this head, as compared with the previous year, is more than explained by the fact that the services of all Sub-Inspectors of Schools hitherto serving under the District Boards were transferred to Government towards the close of the previous year, and a corresponding reduction was made in the fixed assignments to the Boards on account of the salaries and travelling allowances of those officers. Contributions from Government for other purposes are shown in the accounts under the heads concerned.

Loans.

297. The District Board of Champaran obtained a loan of Rs. 50,000 from Government for the repair of the extensive damages to roads caused by floods. The District Board of Muzaffarpur took a loan of Rs. 60,000 for the construction of a pontoon bridge at Athar ferry on the Athar Ghât Road.

Deposits and Advances.

298. The receipts increased by Rs. 4,29,021. The fluctuation under this suspense head was due chiefly to the recovery of advances to contractors, the receipt of larger security deposits from them, and the large recoveries of unexpended balances of advances made to Collectors and others for gratuitous relief and test works on the appearance of famine conditions in different districts.

EXPENDITURE.

Education.

299. The returns show an apparent decrease of Rs. 64,747 in the aggregate; but the charges under "Inspection" decreased by Rs. 1,31,820, as a result of the transfer of Sub-Inspectors of Schools from the service of the Boards to that of Government towards the close of the previous year, as explained in paragraph 15 above. Excluding the decline on this account, the actual increase of expenditure amounted to Rs. 67,073. Rupees 2,71,468 are shown as having been spent on the maintenance and management of schools, as compared with Rs. 1,11,608 in the previous year. Most of the increase under this head is only apparent, and is mainly due to an alteration in the classification of the expenditure on primary schools in the districts of Burdwan and Midnapore, a corresponding decrease being shown in the expenditure under "Grants-in-aid," which fell from Rs. 8,12,349 to Rs. 6,98,776. Taking the two heads together, the expenditure increased by Rs. 46,287. During the year one high school, 132 middle schools, 95 upper and lower primary schools, with 480, 8,704 and 8,550 pupils on their rolls, respectively, were maintained by the District Boards. In the upper and lower primary schools aided by the Boards 646,040 boys and 72,524 girls received instruction, as compared with 632,032 boys and 64,370 girls in 1905-06.

Special Schools.

300. No real progress appears to have been made by the Boards in the development of technical and industrial education, and the public have not availed themselves to any great extent of the advantages offered by the various schools maintained or aided from District Funds. These schools are as yet in a more or less experimental stage, and it is evident that they are in need of more technical advice and supervision than it has been possible to give them in the past in the absence of any special staff qualified for the purpose. Close attention is being given to the subject of technical and industrial development in this Province, as the practice of starting schools here and there, without a definite plan of action and without arranging for their co-ordination under expert supervision, is recognized to be faulty. An experienced officer has recently been placed on special duty with the object of enquiring carefully

into the existing local conditions and formulating definite proposals for the orders of Government. The technical schools maintained or aided by the District Boards of Burdwan, Khulna, Midnapore, Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Manbhum were continued, and the Balasore District Board contributed Rs. 2,000 towards the construction of a suitable building for, and the equipment of, the Balasore Industrial School which was started during the year. A technical school was opened at Bhagalpur during the year, the initial expenditure being Rs. 1,049 and the cost of establishment, exclusive of that provided by Government and the zilla school, Rs. 1,061. Small technical schools are also maintained by the District Boards of Saran and Darbhanga. The Government grant to the technical school at Midnapore, which was suspended in 1905-1906, was renewed. The number of students on the rolls of this school rose from 21 to 41, of whom only three, however, were in the artisan class, which would seem to show that the the institution does not serve the purpose for which it was originally intended, viz., to impart better technical education to the people. In order to meet this defect, the Committee of Management have transferred all the stipends from the sub-overseer class to the artisan class, and it remains to be seen how far the people avail themselves of the advantage thus offered. The result of the examinations this year was unsatisfactory, only one student out of eight sent up having passed the Sub-overseership examination. Besides the maintenance of technical schools, most of the Boards gave scholarships to pupils attending the Sibpur and Bihar Engineering Colleges, the Veterinary College at Belgachia, and the Jaipur Art School. Scholarships were also given to some pupil-nurses at the Temple Medical School at Patna.

301. Attempts are still being made by the District Boards to popularize the use of the fly-shuttle loom, with a view to improving the weaving industry. Little real progress has, however, been made, and it is apparent from the reports that most of the District Boards regard the matter with indifference. In Monghyr Rs. 360 were spent in teaching the use of the fly-shuttle, and it is stated that four students have thoroughly learnt its use. In Darbhanga Rs. 267 were spent on the same object. The Birbhum District Board purchased a loom, and the Midnapore Board distributed to zamindars and others copies of plans of an adaptation of the fly-shuttle to the ordinary loom. In Manbhum the District Board gave a monthly grant of Rs. 10 to the Municipal Industrial School in which the use of the loom is taught. The most practical effort in this direction was made by a private individual, the Revd. Dr. Campbell of Pakhuria in Manbhum, who fitted up a factory with ten looms and began regular work in October 1906. By the end of the year 1906-07, there were ten apprentices and two instructors at work, and the experiment was on a fair way to success. Unfortunately, however, Dr. Campbell's buildings and looms have since been destroyed by fire, and although Government has given a grant of Rs. 1,500 towards the reconstruction of the factory, progress has been much delayed. Copies of plans of the ordinary country loom with the fly-shuttle adapted to it, with estimates of the cost of the adaptation, were distributed by Government to all District Boards during the year. It is hoped that when the large central Weaving School is well established at Serampore under expert supervision, in accordance with the scheme sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, a considerable impetus will be given to the hand-loom industry in the Province. Industrial development.

302. The District Board of Hooghly contributed Rs. 1,000 towards an industrial and agricultural exhibition held during the year at Chinsura. The exhibition is reported to have been successful in diffusing a knowledge of the products of the different parts of the district among the public, and in encouraging local industries and agriculture. Industrial and agricultural shows were also held at Midnapore, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Barasat, Khulna, Patna, Bihta, Kendrapara, Balasore, Sambalpur, Ranchi and Purulia. The increase in the numbers of these shows held during the year, which must be ascribed partly to the encouragement and assistance in the way of grants given by Government, is highly satisfactory. Exhibitions.

303. The expenditure increased by Rs. 54,699, mainly under "Hospitals and Dispensaries." The total number of dispensaries maintained by the Medical.

Boards rose from 119 to 129, while the number of aided dispensaries was the same (137) as in the previous year. Three new dispensaries were opened by each of the District Boards of Bankura and Khulna, two by the District Board of Jessore, and one each by the Boards in Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Monghyr and Ranchi. The District Boards of Purnea and Hazaribagh closed one and two dispensaries, respectively. The largest number of dispensaries were maintained by the District Boards of Patna (11), Khulna (11), Burdwan (10) and Monghyr (10). No dispensaries were maintained by the District Boards of Murshidabad and Hazaribagh and the Sambalpur District Council. The Patna District Board continued to subsidize all Municipal dispensaries in the district, and made a grant of Rs. 3,000 towards the cost of a building for the Dinapore Dispensary. In this district the plague charges rose from Rs. 10,616 in 1905-06 to Rs. 30,463, of which Rs. 24,352 were spent on the destruction of rats. The Gaya District Board contributed Rs. 20,000 towards the cost of the extension of the compound of the Pilgrim Hospital at Gaya. The experiment of deputing Native Doctors in charge of dispensaries to local markets and fairs was successfully tried by the Hooghly District Board in the thana of Pandua. In Midnapore the experiment is said to have proved unsuccessful, except in thana Garhbeta. The District Board of the 24-Parganas purchased a house-boat with the requisite medical stores for a floating dispensary for the Sundarbans, but no work was done during the year. In Cuttack the District Board sanctioned the establishment of a floating dispensary with the help of a donation of Rs. 5,000 from Babu Nimai Charan Mittra, and a grant of Rs. 1,000 from Government.

Sanitation.

304. The sanitary work done by the Boards is of a somewhat varied character, and includes preventive measures against plague, cholera and other epidemic diseases, disinfection of wells and tanks and sanitary arrangements at fairs, *mélas* and important villages. In the case of most of the Boards the expenditure under the sub-head "Sanitation" was merely nominal, and it was only in the districts of Midnapore, Monghyr, Cuttack and Patna that any real attempt was made to carry out the system of village sanitation which has proved so effective in Patna. In the last-named district 5,333 villages were cleansed during the year, in accordance with a systematic plan, under the supervision of the Chairmen and members of the Local Boards, and sweepers with conservancy carts were employed in every subdivision. In Midnapore, out of a total allotment of Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,078 were spent in cleaning 51 villages in the four subdivisions, and Rs. 851 were collected from the public towards the work, a most satisfactory result. In Monghyr 37 villages were cleansed; while in Cuttack Rs. 1,301 were spent on similar work.

Veterinary charges.

305. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 28,740 in 1905-06 to Rs. 30,785. With the exception of Howrah, all the District Boards incurred expenditure under this head. A new veterinary dispensary was opened at Sambalpur, and new veterinary hospitals are under construction at Arrah and Bhagalpur. The Muzaffarpur District Board returns the largest expenditure (Rs. 3,468) under this head: this Board maintained two dispensaries, at Muzaffarpur and at Sitamarhi, besides employing an itinerant Veterinary Assistant for work in the interior. One thousand and forty animals were treated at the Veterinary Dispensary at Burdwan, and 284 cattle were inoculated by the Veterinary Assistant with anti-rinderpest serum. The Veterinary Assistant in Midnapore visited 188 villages and treated 6,061 cases, and 283 inoculations were successfully performed with the anti-rinderpest serum. The increase in the number of operations is reported to be due to the fact that one of the zamindars of the Contai subdivision allowed the operation to be performed on his cattle, a good example that was readily followed by his tenants. Satisfactory work was also done by itinerant Veterinary Assistants in the district of Palamau, where 6,323 animals were treated, and in Hooghly, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Hazaribagh. It is gratifying to note that in most districts the people now fully realize the value of the services rendered by the Veterinary staff, and are quite ready to take advantage of them. Several District Boards granted scholarships tenable at the Government Veterinary College at Belgachhia, and it is hoped that all the Boards will contribute under this head.

Famine Relief.

306. The heavy floods of July and August caused severe scarcity in the North Gangetic districts of the Patna Division, and in certain portions of

Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea. The expenditure incurred on gratuitous relief, which was in the first instance met from the funds of the District Boards, and which in the district of Darbhanga alone amounted to Rs. 1,60,431, was subsequently refunded by Government. The expenditure on test works was divided between the Government and the Board in all cases in which it was considered that the works constructed were for the benefit of the Board: in other cases the entire expenditure was refunded by Government. In the Darbhanga district charges amounting to Rs. 25,874, representing one-half of the expenditure on test works, were borne by the Board. In the Bhagalpur Division much special expenditure was incurred in repairing the damages done to roads by the floods, with the object of providing employment for those able to work. The Commissioner reports that the relief operations rendered necessary by the prevailing scarcity were mostly carried out through the agency of the Boards, but that separate figures are not available showing the extent of the relief afforded out of the amount of the expenditure charged to famine relief in the Board accounts. Rupees 23,885 are shown, however, as spent up to the end of the year on relief works in the Bhagalpur district; and this amount was subsequently refunded by Government. Partial distress also occurred in Murshidabad, Nadia and Jessore, and the relief operations were in the first instance carried out at the cost of the Boards.

Civil Works.

307. The expenditure shows a large increase of Rs. 7,67,113, which occurred mainly under "Communications" (Rs. 5,54,770), "Water-works" (Rs. 29,976) and "Other works of improvement" (Rs. 81,373). The expenditure on "Establishment and Contingencies appertaining to Public Works" shows a comparatively small increase of Rs. 16,908. The Boards maintained 2,674 miles of metalled and 18,459 miles of unmetalled district roads, and 14,610 miles of village roads. Large bridges were built in the districts of Burdwan, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea, and important new roads were constructed in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Birbhum, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Hazaribagh and Ranchi. The Muzaffarpur District Board acquired the ferry over the Bur Gandak River at Atharghat at a cost of Rs. 30,000, and is constructing a pontoon bridge over the river at an estimated cost of Rs. 65,260, of which Rs. 60,000 were spent during the year.

Water-supply and Water Works.

308. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 29,976, or by about 28 per cent., but the increase occurred wholly in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, where the expenditure was almost doubled; in the rest of the Province there was a decline in expenditure. The District Boards of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Palamau incurred no expenditure under this head, while in Howrah, out of a budget provision of Rs. 3,000, only Rs. 678 were spent against Rs. 464 spent in the previous year out of a similar budget provision. In the Presidency Division the expenditure increased by Rs. 21,839. In Nadia 21 wells were completed and 12 more taken in hand, while Rs. 1,099 were spent as interest on loans taken under the Land Improvement Act. In Jessore 23 tanks were excavated at a cost of Rs. 14,014, and 5 wells were made. In Khulna seven tanks were completed, work to the amount of Rs. 9,628 done on eight others, and 20 tanks were taken up under the grants-in-aid system at a cost of Rs. 7,349. In Gaya the District Board made a grant of one lakh of rupees to the Gaya Municipality towards the water-works scheme, and in Monghyr the District Board paid during the year a second instalment of Rs. 10,000 out of the promised contribution of Rs. 30,000 towards the Victoria Water Works in the town of Monghyr. Out of a total allotment of Rs. 1,500 made by the Sambalpur District Council under this head to the two tahsils, only Rs. 450 were brought to account.

Drainage.

309. Only four districts of the Presidency Division incurred any expenditure under this head. The Commissioner of the Division reports that the amount (Rs. 1,593) shown as spent represents grants to Municipalities and Union Committees for the improvement of local drains, and that further expenditure incurred on this account is included under "Sanitation and Civil Works." Some progress was made with the Magrahat drainage scheme, and although the work is far from complete, an extension of cultivation and an

improvement of health in the locality have already been reported. Up to the close of the year, this Government had made grants aggregating Rs. 5,00,000 towards this important scheme. The question of improving the drainage of an area of 3½ square miles near Bagerhat was still under the consideration of the Drainage Commissioners appointed under the Sanitary Drainage Act. In the Hooghly district the project for excavating the old bed of the River Kausiki, towards the cost of which the District Board contributed Rs. 8,500, is being carried out by the Public Works Department of Government. The Special Committee appointed to enquire into the question of drainage in the Presidency Division in connection with malarial fever submitted their report after the close of the year. The report has already been separately reviewed by Government in Resolution No. 1168Medl., dated the 26th November 1907, but it may be noticed here that the Committee advocate that attention be concentrated for the present on the following schemes:—

(*a*) Murshidabad district ... Berhampur and Gobra *nala* schemes.
(*b*) Jessore district ... ... Bhairab scheme.
(*c*) 24-Parganas ... ... Bagjola scheme.
(*d*) 24-Parganas ... ... Nawai and Soonti scheme.

Roads.

310. The expenditure on account of repairs of metalled and unmetalled roads increased from Rs. 14,26,924 in 1905-06 to Rs. 15,61,300, while that on account of construction increased from Rs. 10,93,693 to Rs. 13,97,057, of which Rs. 9,89,717 were spent on original works on unmetalled roads. The average expenditure per mile on metalled roads shows a large decline, being Rs. 237 as against Rs. 302 in the previous year. In the case of unmetalled and village roads it increased from Rs. 35 and Rs. 13 to Rs. 40 and Rs 14, respectively. The cost of repairs per mile of metalled road shows the most striking variations: for instance, in Bhagalpur with 61·5 miles of metalled road, the cost per mile was Rs. 618, while in Bankura, with 61 miles of metalled road, it was Rs. 54 only. The attention of the Commissioner will be drawn to these figures. The difference is probably largely due to the greater cost of carriage of metal in the former district.

Railway feeder roads.

311. It is satisfactory to notice that considerable progress was made with the construction of feeder roads during the year. In Burdwan the construction of two feeder roads was completed, and work on four others was in progress. In Birbhum Rs. 28,489 were spent on the construction of new feeder roads and the improvement of those already existing. Five feeder roads have already been completed in Bankura, and a scheme for the district at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,76,800 has been prepared, towards which the Commissioner has allotted Rs. 8,000 from the special grant placed at his disposal. In Hooghly and Howrah Rs. 4,744 and Rs. 38,316, respectively, were spent on the construction of feeder roads. In the Presidency Division, the District Board of the 24-Parganas spent Rs. 29,182 under this head, against Rs. 19,204 in the previous year, while the Murshidabad District Board spent Rs. 33,682. The Gaya District Board spent Rs. 21,926 on the construction or improvement of seven feeder roads, and in Shahabad two roads are at present under construction, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 11,068. In Muzaffarpur the construction of the feeder road to the Bidupur station on the Katihar Branch of the Bengal North-Western Railway was completed during the year, the total cost of the work being Rs. 27,364, and the Waini-Pusa Road was constructed in Darbhanga from funds allotted to the Board by the Commissioner from his special grant. The grants made from Provincial Revenues towards this latter road, leading from the railway station at Waini to the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa, have amounted to Rs. 40,854. Of the four roads which were under construction in Monghyr in 1905-06, two were completed, and the other two are now almost finished. In Bhagalpur the District Board incurred expenditure on two roads, and projects for constructing a new road and improving an existing road were sanctioned during the year. The Cuttack District Board constructed seven feeder roads, one of which was of considerable importance. Four roads were completed in Manbhum, and one in Puri; and seven more feeder roads were under construction during the year in the districts of Palamau, Hazaribagh, Manbhum and Balasore.

Miscellaneous improvements.

312. Expenditure was incurred on the promotion of roadside arboriculture by almost all the District Boards, ranging from Rs. 3,995 in Gaya to Rs. 81 in

Puri. Sanctioned programmes for carrying on the work in a systematic manner were followed in nine districts, viz., Birbhum, Hooghly, Gaya, Saran, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Cuttack. The Shahabad District Board shows the largest amount of receipts (Rs. 1,639) from the sale of fruit and timber. In Government Circular No. 7L.S.-G., dated the 29th January 1907, the District Boards were asked to depute an Overseer or Sub-Overseer each year to the Royal Botanic Garden at Sibpur for training in arboriculture. During the current year a Manual of Arboriculture was issued by the Director of Agriculture, for the guidance of local officers and local bodies.

313. In the Burdwan Division a new Railway from Ondal to the Sainthia Railway Station was opened for traffic in January 1907; and two proposals for the construction of light railways, from Memari to Chakdighi and along the Burdwan-Katwa Road, are under consideration. The 24-Parganas District Board authorized the promoters of the Barasat-Basirhat line to apply to Government for sanction to the extension of the Railway to Taki and Hasnabad, and also authorized a preliminary survey for a branch line from the Beliaghata bridge to Patipukur. Proposals for extending the line to Satkhira are also under consideration. In Nadia an estimate amounting to Rs. 16,28,906, prepared by the Eastern Bengal State Railway, for constructing 56·10 miles of light railway between Krishnagar and Jellinghee, *viâ* Meherpur, has been submitted to the District Board for consideration of the guarantee. The Patna District Board have sanctioned the extension of the Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway line to Silao. In Shahabad statistics were collected for a proposed light railway from Arrah to Sassaram, and permission has been granted by the District Board to the construction of a tramway line along the Board road from Dehri to Akbarpur, subject to the sanction of the Local Government. The surveys of the proposed Chapra-Masrakh line in Saran and of the proposed line from Darbhanga to Khagaria in Monghyr were completed by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company. The Howrah-Amta, the Howrah-Seakhala, the Barasat-Basirhat and the Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railways continued to work satisfactorily. The Boards' shares of the surplus profits in 1906 were— Railways and Tramways.

				Rs.
Howrah	District Board	...	...	38,680
Hooghly	" "	...	...	3,632
24-Parganas	" "	...	...	12,668
Patna	" "	...	...	6,572

314. The charges under the suspense head "Deposits and advances" rose from Rs. 3,01,640 to Rs. 8,89,833. This was due chiefly to the inclusion under this head, in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, of the figures representing the difference between the value of cheques cashed during the year in excess of those issued during the year. There was a large increase of about two lakhs in Darbhanga, the bulk representing advances for famine relief, test works and flood repairs. The increase of Rs. 71,066 in Muzaffarpur was due to advances for famine relief. In Champaran the increase of Rs. 72,243 was due to the refund of the Government grant and private subscriptions for the construction of the Motihari Dispensary building and the adjustment of the advances. Debt.

315. The actual aggregate closing balances of District Boards, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 27,98,583, against Rs. 23,68,683 at the close of the previous year. This increase of the unspent balances is highly unsatisfactory. In the Patna Division the amount shows a small decline of Rs. 14,757. The balances exceeded a lakh of rupees in eleven districts, the largest balance being reported by Midnapore (Rs. 2,19,103). These large balances are reported to be due either to the failure of the Boards to work up to their sanctioned programmes, owing to difficulty in the collection of materials or in procuring contractors, or to the receipt of large grants from Government late in the year for works, the estimates for which were delayed for want of materials or other reasons. These reasons, however, although they might afford sufficient explanation of larger balances in any one year, do not in any way explain the steady increase in the balances of the Boards which has been so noticeable of late years. The attention of the Commissioners is again Closing balances.

directed to the necessity of closer supervision in this respect; it is essential that the District Boards should make full and proper use of the increased revenues recently placed at their disposal.

General remarks.

316. On the whole the District Boards have done well during the year, and have shown considerable interest in the various branches of their work. The working of the Local Boards, on the other hand, is generally reported to have been unsatisfactory. The question of improving the status of these bodies is under the consideration of Government.

Volunteering.

Total Strength.

317. The number of enrolled volunteers and reservists during the year was 6,156. Arrangements have been made for forming a new troop of the Chota Nagpur Mounted Rifles with head-quarters at Jherria, in the centre of the coal fields of the Manbhum district. This corps will now have its own Adjutant as its enrolled strength is up to the required number. There are now ten separate corps in this Province.

Marine.

[The information contained in the Chapter below has been obtained partly from the correspondence with the officers and public bodies with whom the Marine Department is concerned, and partly from certain reports which are annually submitted to that Department. The reports consulted are as follows :—

Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for the year 1906-1907.
Report on the working of the Shipping Offices at the Port of Calcutta and the Ports of Orissa for the year 1906-1907.
Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for the year 1906.
Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for the year 1906-1907.
Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for the year 1906-1907.
Administration Report of the Ports of Orissa for the year 1906-1907.
Annual Report of the Commissioners for the Inspection of Steam-Boilers and Prime-Movers in Bengal for the year 1906-1907.
Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission for the year 1906-1907.
Statistics of British India, --Part IX,—Administrative and General.

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service, and receipts from Pilotage.

318. At the close of the year there were 50 qualified Pilots on the strength, being one more than the number in the previous year. Two casualties occurred during the year under review—one in the Covenanted and the other in the Licensed Pilot Service. Three qualified Leadsmen Apprentices were promoted to the grade of Mate Pilot.

The sanctioned strength of the service is 58. This can only be worked up to as the Leadsmen qualify. At the close of the year there were 15 Leadsmen in training as against 18 in the previous year. Arrangements were made for bringing out four Leadsmen Apprentices from England and for the appointment of one locally selected candidate to meet present requirements and also to ensure that the sanctioned number may be attained within reasonable time.

The pilotage receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 14,21,189, against Rs. 13,62,785 in the previous year.

Arrival and Departure of Vessels.

319. The number of arrivals at the port during the year was 1,614, and of departures 1,626. The total number of arrivals and departures was 3,240, or 108 more than that of the previous year. These figures represent a gross tonnage of 6,205,092 inwards and 6,256,731 outwards. The average tonnage of steam and sailing vessels inwards and outwards was 3,846, against 3,722 in the previous year.

The number of steamers drawing over 21 feet piloted inward increased and those piloted outwards decreased. During the year, no sailing ships drawing over 21 feet were piloted inwards and outwards. Altogether 27 vessels—21 inward and 6 outward—were neaped for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars, against 19 vessels in the previous year. The number of vessels detained at the Sandheads for want of Pilots during the year was 13, the shortest detention being 6 hours 25 minutes, the longest 21 hours, the average detention being 15 hours 44 minutes.

Casualties.

320. There were 9 collisions and 30 groundings during the year, against 7 collisions and 22 groundings in the previous year. In one case of collision

the Pilot concerned was held to blame for error of judgment and in another case for negligence. In regard to the groundings the Pilots were in fault in four instances only.

Sixty preliminary enquiries were held by the Port Officer, as the result of which four cases were referred to Departmental Courts of Enquiry and nine to Special Courts of Enquiry.

321. One hundred and three candidates appeared at the examinations for Colonial and Home Trade Certificates of Competency, of whom 57 passed; 326 candidates also appeared at the different examinations for Certificates of Competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver of Inland Steam-vessels under Act VI of 1884, of whom 185 were successful. **Examination.**

322. The Government of India having sanctioned the construction of a second Pilot Steam vessel for the Bengal Pilot Service, the Director-General of Stores, London, has placed the contract for the vessel with The Fairfield Company, and it is expected that the vessel will be ready for service in June 1908. **Second Steam Pilot Cruiser.**

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

323. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office during the year 1906-1907 amounted to Rs. 84,380, against Rs. 83,617 in the previous year. **Finance.**

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 42,214 as compared with Rs. 41,180 in the past year. The increase in expenditure is due to larger sums of money drawn during the year by officers performing overtime work afloat, and to the grant of grain compensation allowance to clerks and menials.

324. The number of seamen shipped and discharged were 41,533 and 37,653 respectively. **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

Contrary to the tendency displayed in recent years, there was an increase in shipments and discharges under European articles, while those under Indian articles showed a decrease. The actual figures are as follows:—

	Shipments.		Increase.	Decrease.	Discharges.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1905-1906.	1906-1907.			1905-1906.	1906-1907.		
European Articles ...	899	946	47	Nil.	933	1,132	199	Nil.
Indian Articles ...	40,630	40,587	Nil.	43	36,871	36,521	Nil.	350

The decrease under Indian articles is attributed partly to a greater number of vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company having been placed on the coasting trade, and partly to the recent amendment of the law relating to foreign running agreements effected by Act VI of 1906, under which the agreements are to remain in force for six months from the date of execution instead of expiring on the last day of June and December, irrespective of the date on which they were entered into, as was previously the case, thereby making the occasions for shipment less frequent.

Besides the above, 73 seamen were shipped and 101 discharged by foreign Consuls.

Thirty-five distressed seamen were assisted with passages to the United Kingdom during the year, against 71 in the previous year. Of these, 21 were invalids, one insane, and 13 were released prisoners who were absolutely destitute.

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

325. The Health Officer inspected 836 inward-bound and 1,700 outward-bound vessels, against 555 and 1,638, respectively, during the previous year. **Inspection of Vessels.**

The number of European and Asiatic seamen inspected on inward-bound vessels was 13,599 Europeans and 38,844 Asiatics, against 10,395 Europeans and 23,134 Asiatics in 1905.

In outward-bound vessels the numbers were 26,221 Europeans and 100,787 Asiatics, against 25,812 Europeans and 95,090 Asiatics in 1905.

326. The number of European seamen estimated to have arrived in this Port during the year was 20,118, against 20,339 in 1905. **Health of the Port.**

The daily average population of the Port was 1,138, against 1,114 in the previous year. The death-rate was 11·42 per mille, against 17·08 per mille in 1905. The quinquennial mean death-rate was 14·58.

327. Sixty-four thousand three hundred and eighteen lascars arrived in the Port, against 65,959 of 1905, of which 36,227 were in coasting steamers, **Lascar Crew.**

27,896 in foreign-going steamers, 80 in sailing vessels, and 274 in Turkish and Arab vessels, against 36,500 in coasting steamers, 25,954 in foreign-going steamers, 77 in sailing vessels, and 232 in Turkish and Arab vessels in 1905. Lascars left the Port to the number of 1,00,787 against 98,090 in 1905.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Revenue receipts and expenditure.

328. The income of the year 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 1,00,08,737, against Rs. 89,55,395 in 1905-06. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 98,90,809, the *surplus* being Rs. 1,17,928. Adding this amount to the Revenue balance on 1st April 1906, the nett surplus revenue on 31st March 1907 was Rs. 29,59,533. Out of this surplus revenue, Rs. 26,23,734 have been set aside as Revenue Reserve and Rs. 3,35,799 have been carried forward.

Capital outlay.

329. The expenditure during the year upon Capital Works amounted to Rs. 1,04,37,073. The more important works completed or in progress during the year are—Four-storeyed Sale Tea Warehouse at Docks; extension of Hydraulic Pumping Station at Docks; quarters for officers in Metapuker Lane; reconstruction of No. 2 Jetty berth and shed; Armenian Ghat landing place; timber ponds on Sibpur foreshore; two Jute Warehouses, Bag Bazar; new Workshop at Garden Reach; improvement and extension of Petroleum Depôt at Budge-Budge; seven ferry steamers; suction Dredger *Sandpiper*; construction of hide sheds.

Capital account.

330. The Capital debt of the Trust on 31st March 1907 was Rs. 5,97,02,857. Against this the Commissioners hold properties, including works in progress, stock of stores and materials, cash and securities in hand, aggregating Rs. 8,06,29,941. The latter figure does not represent the total value of the Commissioners' properties, as the value of a large area of land is included in the assets at cost price only, and this land has increased greatly in value since it was acquired. Moreover, this does not include the value of the Strand Bank and Howrah Foreshore lands, the capitalised value of which, at present rates of rent, amounts to a considerable sum. The Commissioners have also accumulated Sinking Funds for repayment of debenture loans to the extent of Rs. 58,70,884. The position of the Commissioners in respect of their debt is therefore satisfactory.

Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.

331. In addition to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Sinking Funds, the Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant and a Fire Insurance Fund. The balance standing at the credit of the Depreciation Fund on the 31st March 1907 was Rs. 7,07,850. To meet renewals of vessels, mooring materials, &c., during the year, an expenditure of Rs. 2,54,585 was charged against this fund, while the receipts from Revenue and the interest on securities amounted to Rs. 1,33,043. The total accumulations under the Fire Insurance Fund amounted to Rs. 6,32,591, including investments of the face value of Rs. 3,80,200. During the year a sum of Rs. 18,750 was contributed by Revenue to the latter fund and interest amounting to Rs. 14,900 was realised on securities.

Working results of 1906-07 compared with 1905-06.

332. The following table shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue Account for the year under review as compared with similar figures of the previous year:—

	1906-07.				1905-06.				Difference between 1906-07 and 1905-06.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett deficit.	Increase.	Decrease
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	3,504	6,68,257	...	6,64,753	20,598	6,82,515	...	6,61,917	...	2,836
II.—Jetties	13,04,373	7,69,921	5,34,452	...	12,26,253	6,19,493	6,06,760	...	...	72,308
III.—Tea Warehouse	1,66,693	1 08,207	58,486	...	1,37,935	83,075	54,860	...	3,626	...
IV.—Petroleum Wharf... ...	2,08,429	33,900	1,74,529	...	2,19,281	35,940	1,83,341	...	...	8,812
V.—I. V. Wharves	4,68,092	1,74,089	2,94,003	...	4,42,986	1,32,372	3,10,614	...	...	16,611
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	9,29,036	1,19,30	8,09,728	...	7,45,498	97,368	6,48,130	...	1,61,598	...
VII.—Port	5,72,324	6,16,370	...	44,046	5,07,352	5,40,220	...	32,868	...	11,178
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	7,00,824	5,08,218	1,92,606	...	6,58,180	4,72,027	1,86,153	...	6,453	...
IX.—Railway	13,82,903	8,09,025	5,73,878	...	10,17,998	7,18,912	2,99,084	...	2,74,794	...
X.—Wet Docks	24,31,254	27,60,71	...	3,29,460	21,95,621	24,26,325	...	2,30,704	...	98,756
XI.—Dry Docks	2,87,706	74,886	2,12,820	...	2,52,933	68,222	1,84,711	...	28,100	...
XII.—River dues	14,25,914	...	14,25,914	...	14,53,720	...	14,53,720	...	...	27,806
Sale of unserviceable materials	16,020	...	16,020	...	33,162	...	33,162	...	...	17,142
Interest on current deposits ...	...	...	...	...	1,932	...	1,932	...	...	1,932
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	41,948	...	41,948	...	41,948	...	41,948	...	...	...

	1906-07.				1905-06.				Difference between 1906-07 and 1905-06.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Interest and Sinking Fund Charges.	...	32,47,914	...	32,47,914	...	27,88,518	...	27,88,518	...	4,59,396
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	19,677	...	19,677	...	...	...	...	...	19,677	...
Total ...	99,58,697	98,90,809	43,54,061	42,86,173	89,55,395	86,64,987	40,94,415	37,14,007	4,94,257	7,16,777
Nett credit on account of sums realized or adjusted in 1906-07 in respect to Revenue of previous years.	50,040	...	50,040	...	...	331	...	331	50,371	...
	1,00,08,737	98,90,809	44,04,101	42,86,173	89,55,395	86,65,318	40,04,415	37,14,338	5,94,628	7,16,777

The decrease in receipts under "Control" was due to the contribution from the Howrah Bridge having been shown as a separate item, *vide* statement above.

In 1906-1907, 1,595 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 6,186,751 visited the Port, as against 1,531 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 5,709,424 in 1905-1906. There was an all-round increase in the receipts, the main factors in the increase of nearly Rs. 11 lakhs being Rs. 78,000 from the Jetties, Rs. 1,07,600 from the Port and Port approaches, Rs. 2,35,600 from the Wet Docks and Rs. 3,65,000 from the Railway. The increase in the receipts from Rentable Lands and Buildings was principally due to the Strand Warehouse, formerly used as a Tea Warehouse, being made available for the storage of piece-goods.

The Dry Dock continues to give a good return.

333. There was a notable increase of 65,000 tons in the jute shipments at the Docks and of 10,000 tons in tea. A new feature in the traffic was the shipment of 25,000 tons of Manganese ore. The quantity of coal shipped was 3,000,181 tons as compared with 2,558,502 tons in the previous year and it was the highest on record. The exports over the Dock quays aggregated 3,796,404 tons, against 3,348,802 tons in the previous year. The imports over the Dock quays were 186,815, against an average of 54,826 tons during the past five years. There was an increase in imports under item "sugar" only as compared with the previous year. Traffic.

The traffic in jute and hemp handled at the Inland Vessels' Wharves showed a considerable advance and there was a phenomenal rise in the imports of molasses.

During the year the rolling-stock for the Railway was increased by six new locomotives and 140 open wagons and 60 more wagons were ordered in September 1906.

The new four-storeyed Sale-Tea Warehouse at the Docks was brought into use during the year under review and the Strand Warehouse at Armenian Ghât has been made available for the storage of piece-goods and supplies a long-felt want in supplementing the storage accommodation at the Jetties.

A scheme to provide for the eventual wants of the expanding trade of the Port which was drawn up by Mr. F. Palmer, Chief Engineer, received the administrative approval of the Government of India.

Two hundred and twenty-four vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 764,419 were accommodated at the Jetties.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

334. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 2,37,016 as against Rs. 2,23,379, and the expenditure to Rs. 2,06,654 as against Rs. 1,77,777 in the previous year, leaving a surplus of Rs. 30,362 as compared with a surplus of Rs. 45,603 in 1905-1906. The receipts from the toll payable by the East indian Railway for the traffic passing over the Bridge rose from Rs. 2,00,877 to Rs. 2,12,474. Finance.

335. With a view to minimise the inconvenience to foot-passengers and vehicular traffic, and to do away with, in so far as it is practicable, the detentions to steamers and flats of the Inland Vessels Companies, the Commissioners Night openings.

of the Port of Calcutta decided to introduce night openings. The necessary gas buoys, occulting lights, and high arc lights were therefore obtained and erected and the Bridge was opened at night, for the first time, on the 4th June 1906. The monthly average of day openings decreased from 13 to 4, while the total number of openings in one month increased from 13 to 24.

Accidents.

336. The number of vessels which passed through the Bridge during the year under review was the highest on record and the total number of accidents during the year was 31 as compared with 28 in the previous year. The accidents to cargo and passenger boats were 29 as against 21 in 1905-1906. Ten boats were lost during the year.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

Finance.

337. The receipts of the ports during the year amounted to Rs. 14,934, as compared with Rs. 15,211 in the previous year. The decrease of Rs. 277 is due to a falling off in the receipts under Port dues in Cuttack, owing to the merchants having despatched rice to Colombo *viâ* Chandbali.

The expenditure was Rs. 13,871, against Rs. 19,748 in the preceding year. There were decreases under the head "Pensions and Gratuities" in Cuttack and under "Stores" in Balasore which account for this decrease in expenditure. The receipts with an opening balance of Rs. 7,154 amounted to Rs. 22,088; there was thus a surplus balance of Rs. 8,217 at the close of the year.

Trade.

338. The value of trade during the year was Rs. 1,04,22,811, against Rs. 91,62,471 in 1905-1906.

Shipping.

339. There was a slight increase both in the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the ports, Two hundred and twenty-six vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 171,112 tons entered the ports during the year, against 217 vessels with a tonnage of 156,341 tons in the preceding year.

Passenger Traffic.

340. The passenger traffic between the Orissa Ports and Calcutta may be considered fairly steady. The number of passengers carried between Calcutta and Chandbali and *vice versâ*, which constitute the major portion of the entire traffic, was 34,495 and 31,391.

Inspections.

341. The ports were inspected by the Port Officer of Calcutta and found to be in a satisfactory condition. The erosion of the Shortt's Islands towards the sea continues. The structure of the old lighthouse stands at 520 feet from the nearest high water mark of the island.

Health.

342. The health of the ports was good throughout the year, although there were several cases of fever. Two cases of cholera were landed from the S.S. *Jattra* at Chandbali which proved fatal; and three cases of small-pox, landed from the same vessel, were cured.

THE BENGAL STEAM BOILERS COMMISSION.

Inspection of Steam Boilers.

343. The total number of boilers inspected and passed for certificates during the year 1906-1907, both in Calcutta and the added areas, was 3,215, as against 3,024 in 1905-1906, 2,759 in 1904-1905, and 2,596 in 1903-1904. The number of boilers not inspected during the year is 669. Out of this number, 133 boilers have been either struck off the registers owing to their not being presented for inspection for five consecutive years, or removed out of jurisdiction, or found unfit for further service.

THE BENGAL SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Inspector and Assistant Inspector.

344. The Commission constituted under the Act was appointed in January 1906 and its principal duty was to draft rules under section 10 of the Act for carrying out the purpose of the Act. To help the Commission in this task the services of Mr. W. Nicholson, Chief Inspector of Smoke Nuisances, Sheffield, were obtained for a period of six months. It immediately took up the question of the rules under section 10, and submitted draft rules, which were published for criticism in May 1906 and subsequently submitted to the Government of India for sanction. This sanction has since been received.

To provide for the working of the Act two Assistant Inspectors were appointed, one of whom has subsequently been made Chief Inspector; and these officers have been regularly employed in taking observations of smoke emitted, in instructing firemen and in testing appliances and fuel. During the year they made 3,938 observations of smoke emitted from chimneys, and 347 tests of furnace appliances. It appears that in 71 cases special appliances for reducing the emission of smoke had been introduced, and that in 16 factories additional boilers had been introduced or old ones replaced by those of a better type. The improvement already effected under the Act is shown by the fact that, whereas in April 1906 dense black smoke was being emitted on average for 13 minutes in the hour, in March 1907 the average was only 3½ minutes.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending June 30th, 1907.]

Appointment of a Director.

345. The complete establishment of this as a separate department may be considered to date from April 3rd, 1906, when the appointment of Director of Agriculture came formally into existence. During this year considerable progress has been made towards getting the various sub-sections into which the work of the department falls, established and in working order.

Local Associations.

346. Divisional Agricultural Associations have now been formed in all Divisions except Bhagalpur, and District Associations in all districts except three. Care is taken to assist them by pecuniary grants and skilled advice as to the channel into which their energies had best be directed. To aid in this, there is an itinerant Inspector of Agriculture attached to each division. Detailed instructions have been issued for the guidance of the District and Divisional Associations. Even thus early in their existence they are reported to be doing extremely useful work in most cases. Their field of operation is unbounded and their opportunities for rendering valuable service are limitless. The report contains the names of the members whose work during the past year has been of most value.

Agricultural Literature.

347. Leaflets were circulated freely in the chief vernaculars containing instructions on the following among other matters of interest and importance to cultivators, viz., notes on cotton cultivation and how to destroy the red cotton bug, notes on potato, jute and ground nut cultivation, instructions how to destroy insect-pests that attack the jute crop, notes on various crop experiments. A quarterly journal was inaugurated, the first number appearing shortly after the close of the year. A manual of Arboriculture was also prepared and issued.

Supplies.

348. Arrangements have been made to stock a supply of seeds, manures and approved implements at the Agricultural Farms as well as in Calcutta. There was a great demand for seeds of jute, *buri* cotton and Russian flax; also for bonemeal and saltpetre as manures. Sugarcane and cassava seedlings and seed potatoes were also much in request.

Agricultural Stations.

349. Considerable progress has been made in the establishment of the stations at Bhagalpur (Sabaur) and Bankipur. Roads, channels for irrigation, manure pits, a masonry silo, hay shed and quarters for the staff were all more or less advanced towards completion. A site has been acquired near Chinsura for a station in the region of deltaic alluvium. The *tassar* silk farm near Chaibassa and a small area for improving *buri* cotton near Chakradhurpur were also put on a permanent footing. A station is also to be established for the upland tracts of Chota Nagpur. The site has not been finally selected. Four special jute farms were in full operation during the year with satisfactory results.

Shows and Fairs.

350. The Department has made every effort to get into direct communication with the promoters of shows and fairs throughout the province. It is hoped to have an officer of the Department at each of them in future, with a collection of implement seeds and manures with which object lessons will be given. As a result of the steps taken by this Department, ten new shows were inaugurated during the year. Shows are now held in all but nine districts.

Agricultural Education.

351. Classes were in progress at Sibpur, in Cuttack Collegiate School, Gaya Zillah School, Dumraon High School, Hazaribagh Zillah School and Burdwan Municipal School. On the whole, the instruction given was far too theoretical. This complaint has been made in other countries before and it seems a general failing to prefer technicalities and memory work to the task of making the pupil learn to use his own faculties of observation and to reason for himself. It is under contemplation to begin by training the teachers on rational methods and to prepare a suitable text-book. A syllabus has already been prepared and circulated, with general instructions, but this is not enough, as the faulty methods of the teachers prevent the accomplishment of the object of the lectures.

Four students are under training at the Cornell University in the United States. They are making favourable progress in their studies. Two students were trained at Pusa. One of them proved a success.

Special Enquiries and Experiments.

352. The following crops were experimented with and the results were, generally speaking, of particular interest: *aman* paddy, jute cultivation, cotton cultivation, fine *aus* paddy, *ikri* sugar-cane (suitable for wet areas) flax (Russian), ground-nuts, mangel wurzel, and silk.

Jute in Bihar.

353. Special experiments were made by various indigo factories, to ascertain if jute could be profitably cultivated in Behar. The replies were all affirmative, qualified by conditions about the maintenance of the present price level. It is, however, not considered a suitable crop from the planters' point of view except where labour is abundant, as the retting process takes much time and hard work.

Indigo Research Work.

354. Indigo manufacture was the subject of further scientific enquiry, the Government subsidy of half a lakh being continued. Notes were published on the following among other points, treatment of Java seed with sulphuric acid to promote germination; practical dye test of natural *versus* synthetic indigo, method of estimating indigotin in commercial indigo. Special seed farms for the Java-Natal plant were maintained at three centres.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1906-1907; Crop forecasts of Bengal for 1906-1907; Report on Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1906-1907; Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I.]

Character of the Season.

355. The rainfall throughout 1906-1907 was unfavourable. In March it was slightly above the average; but April and first portion of May were very dry, and sowings of jute, *bhadoi* crops and winter rice were retarded. It continued to be in defect till July. In July and August it was general and heavy, especially in North Bihar, where crops were seriously damaged by floods. In September it was generally deficient. In October it was unequally distributed, the Bihar districts suffering from severe drought, while the rest of the Province received quite sufficient rain. In November, December and January drought prevailed generally throughout the Province. In February and March, cloudy weather, heavy showers and, in places, hailstorms damaged the *rabi* crops to a large extent.

The table below gives the estimated area and outturn in 1906-1907 of the *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi* harvests, as compared with the previous year and a normal year :—

Name of harvest.	Normal area, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1905-06, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1906-07, in acres.	Taking 100 to present the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1905-06.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn how much represented the outturn for the year 1906-07
Bhadoi	11,477,600	10,473,000	10,466,900	73	69
Winter { Winter rice ...	21,301,700	20,605,500	20,033,600	88	78
Winter { Sugarcane ...	429,500	421,600	423,500	92	90
Rabi	11,824,700	11,154,500	11,339,500	74	71
Total ...	45,033,500	42,654,600	42,263,500	81	74

Bhadoi or autumn crops.

356. The estimate of outturn of *bhadoi* crops was 69 per cent. against 73 per cent., the estimate of last year. Want of rain in April and May delayed sowings. The crop suffered from floods in Bihar and in parts of Lower Bengal. In Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga they were seriously damaged. Food-crops occupied 8,870,600 acres as compared with a normal area of 9,650,000 acres, and their outturn was estimated at only 67 per cent. of the normal. The various non-food crops, including jute, indigo, *bhadoi*, *til* and early cotton, were sown on 1,596,300 acres, the normal area sown being estimated at 1,827,600 acres. Deficient rainfall in April, May and June retarded the sowings and early growth of jute; and later on floods did much damage in Purnea, the most important jute-growing district in this Province. The outturn

was estimated at 82 per cent. Indigo sowings were also delayed; and in the most important indigo districts heavy rain and floods caused widespread injury. The total outturn of all the *bhadoi* non-food crops was estimated at 79 per cent. of the normal.

Winter rice crop.

357. Winter rice suffered from irregular distribution of rain during the monsoon season. In many of the districts of the Presidency Division and of Bihar, the crop was damaged by floods and excessive rain. In October and November, it suffered in Bihar from insufficient rain. The area sown was 20,033,600 acres against, 20,605,500 acres sown last year and a normal area of 21,301,700 acres. The outturn for the Province was estimated at 78 per cent. of a normal crop against 88 per cent. last year.

Rabi or spring crops.

358. *Rabi crops.*—There was insufficient rain during their early growth. In February and March, rain and hail did wide damage. The total area under all *rabi* crops was estimated at 11,339,500 acres, against 11,154,500 acres in the preceding year, the total normal area being reported as 11,824,700 acres. The estimate for the total area of *rabi* food-crops, including wheat, amounted to 8,344,600 acres, against 8,191,400 acres estimated for last year. Their outturn was estimated at 70 per cent. of the normal. The area sown with all *rabi* non-food crops was returned as 2,994,900 acres, against 2,963,100 acres last year, and a normal area of 3,388,000 acres. The outturn amounted to 74 per cent. The total outturn of all *rabi* crops was 71 per cent. of the normal, the corresponding figure for last year being 74 per cent.

Sugarcane.

359. The area planted with sugarcane was 423,500 acres, against 421,600 acres last year and a normal area of 429,500 acres. The outturn was estimated at 90 per cent.

Divisional Summary.

Burdwan Division.

360. In Burdwan the rainfall was adequate and well distributed, but heavy showers in October caused much damage to winter rice on low lands. In Birbhum the rain set in rather late, and the sowings of winter rice were late. The total area sown was less than that of last year. The rain set in late in Bankura, and though in July and August the fall was general, it was not equally distributed, and all high lands were not cultivated. A break in October damaged the crop on high lands. *Rabi* crops suffered considerably. Unseasonable rain affected the outturn of all the important crops in Midnapore and Hooghly. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division was 66 per cent. only, and that of winter rice 84 per cent. *Rabi* food-crops gave a 70 per cent. outturn.

Presidency Division.

361. The rainfall was deficient and unevenly distributed. In the 24-Parganas the crops were damaged by heavy showers in October and by insect-pests. Floods injured the crops in Nadia and Murshidabad. In Khulna, paddy seedlings failed on account of insufficient rain. *Bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of only 62 per cent., while winter rice yielded 79 per cent. of a normal crop. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops amounted to only 69 per cent.

Patna Division.

362. Rain in June was sufficient. Heavy floods in July and August damaged the *bhadoi* crops in all districts except Gaya. Floods did great injury in Darbhanga. After they had subsided, paddy was retransplanted, but a long period of drought followed. The winter rice crop suffered on account of uneven distribution of the *hathiya* rains, and yielded a poor outturn. The unseasonable cessation of rain at the beginning of the season, followed by untimely rain in February and March, caused further damage. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 46 per cent., winter rice 59 per cent. and *rabi* food-crops 69 per cent. The outturn of opium and sugarcane was 81 per cent., and of indigo only 43 per cent.

Bhagalpur Division.

363. There was insufficient rain for winter rice and for *bhadoi* crops. The monsoon was fairly satisfactory at the beginning of the season but excessive rain thereafter in some parts of the Division caused floods which did some damage. Subsequently the rainfall was deficient, except in the Sonthal Parganas and adjacent tracts. The rain was insufficient for *rabi* sowings. There was unseasonable heavy rain in February and March, accompanied in a good many places by hail. Except in the Sonthal Parganas, the harvests have been very unsatisfactory. The *bhadoi* food-crops in the Division yielded an outturn of 69 per cent., winter rice 73 per cent., and *rabi* food-crops 72 per cent. The outturn of indigo and opium was 66 and 53 per cent. of the normal, and that of sugarcane 95 per cent.

364. The rainfall was inadequate, and generally unfavourable. It was not evenly distributed, except in Puri. In Balasore it was insufficient in the early part of the year, and cultivation operations were retarded especially in high lands. A break in the rains, when the crops were maturing, resulted in partial loss on high lands and in an unsatisfactory outturn on low lands. In Angul the rainfall was very small in June, and sowings of *bhadoi* crops and of winter rice were retarded. In October and November it was very light, and insufficient for winter rice and for *rabi* crops. In Cuttack and Sambalpur conditions at the time of sowing were good. In the latter district the rainfall was insufficient in the end of July and beginning of August. The autumn rice suffered considerably in consequence. The rainfall in Puri was seasonably distributed throughout the year, and the crops were assured. The yield of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division amounted to 77 per cent. of the normal, while winter rice showed an outturn of 89 per cent. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was returned at 80 per cent. Orissa Division.

365. The rainfall was above the normal during the year only in the district of Ranchi; in other districts it was much below the normal. The monsoon season was favourable for *bhadoi* crops, which yielded a better outturn than in the preceding year. Winter rice did well in Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum, but it suffered from deficient rain in September, October and November in Hazaribagh and Manbhum. Cloudy and rainy weather in December affected the outturn of all *rabi* crops everywhere. *Bhadoi* food-crops showed an outturn of 97 per cent., winter rice an outturn of 92 per cent., and *rabi* food-crops an outturn of 67 per cent. only. Chota Nagpur Division.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, and the Lloyd Botanic Garden, for the year 1906-1907.]

366. It is interesting to note that the present is the 120th annual report of this institution. The want of a proper survey, as a preliminary to preparing a catalogue and an accurate record of the plants cultivated in the garden, has long been felt. This work was taken up late in the year and considerab e progress has been made in it. In matters of detail, some rearrangements have been made to the advantage of the general appearance of the garden. The roads have been kept in repair and the avenue of Royal Palms has been relaid. But it is apprehended that the present system of road-making and repairs must be replaced by a less dusty method, especially as motor-cars are now not infrequent visitors. Preparations for the establishment of a collection of economic plants are in full swing. General.

367. The plot experiments with "sunn" hemp were continued. The improvements were very great in the development of the plants and the appearance of the fibre. The fibre was sent to London for valuation, but no reply has as yet been received. No further economic experiments will be made at the garden, as the establishment of the Imperial and Provincial Agricultural Departments have provided a better agency and more suitable conditions for carrying on such experiments. The garden can in future be devoted more particularly to botanical research. Useful work has been done in the past by exchanging indigenous or acclimatized seeds and plants of economic importance with other countries. The United States, German East Africa, the French Colonial Bureau, Tiflis, the Philippine Islands, Trinidad, and Brazil are among the places with which exchanges have been effected. This work will not cease. Economic and experimental.

368. No Curator has as yet been appointed, for the Herbarium and Museum, so the progress made is merely nominal. Still some twelve thousand specimens have been added to it, and about a thousand distributed. Collections have been sent on loan to other institutions, even so far away as Berlin. The Laboratory and Museum still await the appointment of the officer who will put them to use. Herbarium and Museum.

369. A course in practical arboriculture will be given in future by the Curator to sub-overseers and others deputed for training by District and Local Boards. Considerable benefit should be derived from this course, and a better Arboriculture.

return may be expected in future for the money expended by local bodies on tree-planting.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

370. Severe hailstorms damaged unprotected plants on three occasions. Alpine plants are being introduced. The garden workshops were rebuilt during the year, and in the nursery a new glass propagating-house and seed room were built. The fencing, paths and banks were kept in repair as far as labour was available.

Financial.

371. The allotments were spent in full, but there were considerable savings under the head "Salaries," as some posts were not filled up during the year. The revenue was Rs. 457 in Calcutta and merely nominal in Darjeeling, as the Lloyd Botanic Garden has ceased to compete with private nursery enterprises.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

General.

372. The climatic conditions were normal, Mungpoo plantation having a rainfall of 125·22 inches and Munsong 78·34.

Extensions.

373. During the year 141·84 acres were planted with nearly 375,000 young trees, and special case was taken to plant out from trees that contained a good percentage of quinine in the bark. It is proposed in future to put the two plantations on an independent footing, as the work has increased largely, and their distance apart (two days' journey under uncomfortable conditions) renders effective supervision of the two by one officer impossible.

Outturn.

374. There was an increase of 287 lbs. in the output of quinine sulphate, which amounted to 16,065 lbs. The additional machinery is not yet in full working order; its estimated capacity is 20,000 lbs. and it is hoped to work up to this figure Owing to the installation of new machinery, only 2,652 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were manufactured. The average yield of quinine sulphate in the bark was only 2·68 per cent. Further steps are being taken to endeavour to remedy this, as the financial results cannot be satisfactory when a vast quantity of bark has to be handled to secure the required amount of quinine sulphate. The profit on the year's working was nominal, but it is obviously desirable to make as little profit as possible from the sale of these remedies.

Forests.

[The annual progress report of Forest Administration, 1906-1907.]

Alterations in area.

375. There has been an increase during the year in the area of Protected Forests and a decrease in that of Reserved Forests. At the close of the year there were over 7,000 square miles of forest area in the province.

Surveys.

376. The survey of the Sundarbans Reserved Forests was begun and about half the area was surveyed. The dangers and difficulties encountered were considerable. The boundaries were well looked after, and much progress was made in the preparation of systematic working plans for various areas. Efforts to regulate the fellings in certain divisions were continued.

Communications, &c.

377. Road making is very far advanced now in the Singhbhum division and maintenance of previously constructed roads is meeting with its proper share of attendance. Efforts are being made to expedite the preparation of proper quarters for subordinates, but progress is slow, as skilled labour and supervision are difficult to procure. Local superstitions are frequently hostile influences and unhealthy localities take their toll of life for nearly every building that is constructed.

Breaches of Forest Laws.

378. There is a considerable reduction in the number of offences brought to light, but the reduction in the number of prosecutions is not in proportion. A very large number of cases were compounded. This method has its advantages but its operation requires much careful supervision to prevent its being made an engine of oppression.

Shooting offences are reported to be very prevalent, and difficult of prevention. Incendiarism is suspected as the cause of a series of forest fires in Angul, where about 1,600 acres were burnt. Obviously detection of the perpetrators is extremely difficult and it is not surprising that a number of

prosecutions were abortive. On the whole, the efforts to protect the forests from fire were very successful. Singhbhum division has now escaped practically unscathed for three consecutive years, and the attitude of forest users in the Sonthal Parganas is no longer one of hostility to fire protection.

Protection from cattle and other causes of injury.

379. An interesting experiment is in progress at Darjeeling. Certain areas have been entirely devoted to pasturage, as it is hoped to obviate the need for permitting grazing in the forests over a wide area by having a small area of genuine grazing grounds. The result of this experiment will help to determine the general questions now pending with regard to future arrangements for grazing. It is the right that forest users value the most, as they prefer the present help of access to grazing grounds to the problematical advantages of a more abundant supply of brushwood and timber in the future.

Creeper cutting and general cleaning has been largely resorted to, as a measure of protection against injuries arising from natural causes.

Administration.

380. A new division was created and during the year the staff was strengthened. A brief practical course was inaugurated at Kurseong for seven selected Foresters and Deputy Rangers. It is hoped that this will lead to a general increase of efficiency, and that a desirable class of recruits for the lower grades of Forest Rangers will be created.

The proposed reorganization of the subordinate establishment is still under consideration.

Financial.

381. There is a substantial increase in the revenue and greater increase in the expenditure during the year. Still, as there was a net surplus of 44½ per cent. of the revenue, the condition of the commercial side of the department is satisfactory. The Angul division shows a small profit for the first time in its history. Its future prospects seem well assured. Even more than in the case of railways, an immediate profit on the capital expenditure cannot be looked for, but in from 20 to 30 years, the income from tracts that are at present unproductive should be considerable, as the young trees are promising and the depleted condition of many forests is undergoing a change for the better.

Further details about Forest Revenue and its distribution between Provincial and Imperial Finance will be found in Chapter V of this report.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Divisional Commissioners' Miscellaneous Reports: Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Jute.

382. A history of the Jute Industry in Bengal is given in the Annual Customs Report for 1906. The total area under jute in the year under report was estimated at 3,336,400 acres and the outturn at 8,736,220 bales. The revised figures for the previous year are 3,128,300 acres and 8,088,093 bales, respectively. The increased area put under the crop is directly due to the great demand and extraordinarily high prices for this staple during the year.

At the close of the year, there were 42 jute-mills at work in the province, which gave employment to 165,692 persons. The nominal capital of these mills is over 538 lakhs, and the value of last year's output was over 1,500 lakhs.

Cotton.

383. The total number of cotton mills in the Province is 13. The trade returns show a considerable increase in the imports of cotton-spinning machinery, as the demand for country-woven cloth has received an impetus of late years.

There were 441,469 spindles at work and employment was given to about 11,563 persons daily. The nominal capital invested in these mills is nearly 116 lakhs of rupees, or £450,000.

Tea.

384. In Darjeeling district tea gardens, numbering 154 in all, were at work during the year. There has been an increased demand for tea and better prices have been obtained. The output has largely increased from 12,448,365lbs. to 15,241,920lbs. The area under tea was 48,867 acres, against 50,618 acres in the previous year.

It is reported that owing to the poor demand for their leaf, the tea-plantations in Chota Nagpur have not shared in the general prosperity of the industry. One garden in Hazaribagh made 420lbs. of tea. In Ranchi, 21 gardens made 288,726lbs., which is over 40,000lbs. less than last year.

Coal.

385. There was great activity in the coal market during the year. The quantity raised was 8,617,820 tons, which exceeds the figure for last year by

1,283,717 tons. Constant complaints are made of the shortage of waggons for transporting coal, and special arrangements are being made to increase the supply and so remedy this inconvenience.

Nearly 83,000 persons are in constant employment at the coal-fields. The value of the coal raised last year was over 228 lakhs.

Mica.

386. Bengal produces nearly half the mica mined in India. Its output in the past year was 35,496 cwts., valued at nearly 29 lakhs. Constant employment was given to nearly 8,000 persons.

Iron Ore.

387. In the past year 69,397 tons, valued at Rs. 151,276, were raised. The scheme for establishing works at Sini is making rapid progress.

Indigo.

388. There has been an improvement in the price obtained for this product, and the outturn shows an increase in the North Bihar Districts from 17,193 maunds to 21,666 maunds in quantity; and in value from Rs. 23,59,000 to Rs. 32,40,000. The extended use of Natal or Java seed contributed to this result, as with it a better outturn and better dye are obtained, while the cultivation is cheaper, as it is necessary to sow only in alternate years.

Saltpetre and Salt.

389. In the past year, 348,263 cwt. of saltpetre, valued at nearly 41 lakhs, were manufactured. Sixty-one tons of salt, valued at Rs. 257, were manufactured during the year.

Sugar.

390. In the Presidency Division, it is reported that the manufacture of sugar continues to decline, owing to foreign competition. In the Bhagalpur Division, there are several refineries, but their methods are unscientific and their outturn is small. In the Patna Division, sugar manufacture is carried on in every district. The refineries that are worked on the native plan are not very prosperous. In Champaran, two new factories under European management were opened during the year: there has in consequence been a large increase in the output, from 16,000 to 46,500 maunds about, in the Bettiah subdivision alone. The Bara and Seeraha Factories made about 27,000 maunds. The factory at Ottur made 1,223 tons. The cane-crushing mill at Benipore made a nominal profit during the year. Better results are hoped for in future.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

Presidency Division.

391. In addition to the *Jute* and *cotton* mills there are the following:—

Paper; two mills at Kankinara and Titaghar continue to work with good results. *Oil;* one mill in Berhampore doubled its output, and there was a corresponding rise in the value of its products. *Silk;* two firms under European direction are engaged in silk winding in Murshidabad. Owing to sickness and the high price for the raw material, the year was not very prosperous. *Locks, brushes, mats, clay-figures* (Krishnagar), *blankets,* and *glazed pottery* are among the minor locally manufactured articles.

An attempt at *match-box* and *writing-pen* manufacture in the 24-Parganas district failed. Also, *tobacco-curing* failed at Narail.

Burdwan Division.

392. In this Division are found the factories of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Messrs. Burn & Co.'s Iron and Pottery Works, numerous jute and cotton mills, flour and oil-mills, a bone-mill, paper-mills and silk-reeling establishments. Ropes are also made largely in Hooghly and Howrah. The above industries were all in a fairly prosperous condition. The minor articles manufactured are *cutlery* (includes the usual agricultural implements); *earthenware; mats; chemicals* (at Konnengar); *huqua tobacco,* of which a specially well-known brand is largely exported to other districts from Bankura; *leather* (near Raniganj).

Bhagalpur Division.

393. The chief manufactures are *tassar* and *bafta silks,* native *cotton cloth, lac, guns* and *pistols* in Monghyr, and *blankets.* New enterprises are two *rice-mills, agave fibre* mill, *cigar and cigarette* factory. The small *hosiery* and *soap* factories have been closed. The Monghyr slate quarries are prosperous.

Patna Division.

394. The usual small industries that provide brass and copper utensils, rough cotton goods, pottery and ornaments for domestic use, continue in the old groove. An attempt to improve the Gaya *carpet-weaving* by establishing a technical school at Obra failed, as the weavers would not disclose their trade secrets. The same industry in Shahabad is reported to be declining. *Limestone* quarries are being developed in that district. *Kokti silk* is made in small quantities in Darbhanga. *Blankets* and *coarse cloths* are made everywhere.

Chota Nagpur Division.

395. *Lac* is produced everywhere, but *shellac* is manufactured only in Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Manbhum. Manbhum has 82 factories at work, Ranchi, 8 and Hazaribagh, 1 only. *Tassar-silk* has not continued to flourish, the outturn for the year being only just 11,000 yards, against 33,000 in the previous year. *Soap-stone* is found in parts of Manbhum and Singhbhum, and small objects are made from it. *Coarse cotton cloth, blankets* and the usual domestic implements are manufactured everywhere.

Orissa Division.

396. As hitherto, *gold* and *silver ornaments*, *tassar* and *cotton cloth*, *domestic* and *agricultural* implements, are the chief manufactures. An attempt has been made to encourage the introduction of the fly-shuttle among the weavers of muslin fabrics.

The *salt* manufacture on the shores of the Chilka Lake has been abolished, and there is some distress among the people thus deprived of their livelihood.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1906 : Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Number of factories and system of work.

397. The number of factories at the close of the year was 190, as against 185 at the close of the year 1905. Nine new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year under report, viz., 1 in Calcutta, 6 in the 24-Parganas and 2 in Howrah. There was a decrease of 4 factories, viz., 1 in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Howrah and 1 in Jessore. Work was carried on in 82 factories by shifts or sets, in 92 with midday stoppages, in 9 under a system of shifts and midday stoppages combined, and in 7 with other arrangements. The average daily number of operatives (men, women and children) employed was 266,205, as compared with 234,725 in the year 1905.

Inspections.

398. Inspections were made in 5 factories once, in 26 twice, in 77 thrice, and in 82 more than thrice. The inspections were generally attended with useful results, the suggestions and remarks made by the Inspecting Officers receiving proper attention from the managers concerned.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

399. The sanitary arrangements of the factories are reported to have been adequate on the whole. The premises were, as a rule clean, well-ventilated, and free from overcrowding. In Howrah, however, the latrines attached to some of the mills and the measures adopted for cleansing them were found to be unsatisfactory. These defects were brought to the notice of the Managers and the Municipality. Certain factories in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions have adopted septic tank latrines which have worked well in most cases. It is to be noted, however, that the chlorination of the effluent has not always been properly carried out where this type of latrine is in use. Steps are being taken to ensure that this is done in future.

Quarters for operatives.

400. Most of the factories in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions are provided with cooly-lines for the operatives. The sanitary condition of those lines is reported to be good on the whole, and those attached to the Dalhousie Mill are worthy of special mention. The operatives in certain mills in the town of Howrah live in bustees. The Local Municipality is taking active measures for the improvement of these settlements. The *kutcha* surface drain round the Baranagar Jute Mill continues to be a nuisance. The Calcutta Municipal authorities are now laying sewage pipes on the road adjoining the mill, and until this work is completed, no action can be taken by the Manager to provide drainage for the latrines of this factory.

Water-supply.

401. The supply of water is favourably reported on and is said to have been adequate. In the towns of Calcutta and Howrah the factories are supplied with filtered drinking water from the municipal mains, but outside this radius the water has to be purified either by the construction of special filter-beds, or by the employment of various patent filters. At Jamalpur, good drinking water is obtained from wells. In Hooghly certain factories provide river water after having it settled. The Civil Surgeon of Serampur is satisfied that there have been no bad results from its use; but there is no apparent reason why the mills concerned should not supply filtered water to their workpeople.

Vaccination of operatives.

402. As a general rule the Managers of Factories were careful to exclude unprotected operatives; no case of resistance to vaccination has been reported.

In Burdwan a large number of the hands employed in the mills that have cooly-lines were vaccinated. In Hooghly a good deal of work is done by the municipal vaccinators.

General health of the operatives.

403. The general health of the operatives was good, but cholera broke out in the cooly-lines of the Pottery Works at Raniganj, there being 26 attacks and 8 deaths. The arrangements for the treatment for the sick were satisfactory. There were also 23 deaths in the Buxar Central Jail Factory. In the Presidency Division, almost all the larger factories are provided with well-stocked dispensaries under the charge of qualified medical men, while some mills entertain the services of European Medical Officers for the treatment of their European employés. It is satisfactory to note that, in this division, the health of the workpeople is said to compare favourably with that of similar classes outside the mills.

Wages and general condition of operatives.

404. The Magistrate of Howrah reports that wages of operatives are higher than those generally earned by people of the same status engaged in other pursuits. The rise in the price of food-grains did not materially affect the rate. The mill-hands are a prosperous class, especially as in many cases they receive good house accommodation, excellent drinking water, and free medical attendance.

Employment of women and children.

405. The rules regulating the employment of women and children are reported to have been generally observed. In a few cases in the Burdwan Division, under-age children were found employed. The attention of the managers concerned has been called to this irregularity.

A proposal to take the thumb-marks of children employed in factories so as to prevent their being employed for longer than the proper time, and to prevent personation where the shift system prevails, is under consideration.

Fencing of machinery.

406. On the whole the machinery in factories was well-fenced, and protected where dangerous. The Special Inspector still continues to urge on managers the necessity of fitting small rollers to the calendar machines with a view to prevent accidents; and it is hoped that this safeguard will eventually be generally adopted.

Accident.

407. The total number of accidents during the year was 962, as against 785 in the previous year. Of these, 600 were of a slight and 328 of a serious nature, while 34 proved fatal. The Magistrate of Howrah reports that some accidents, which were reported as serious, subsequently ended fatally. The managers have been instructed to submit supplementary reports in such cases. Almost all the accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the operatives injured.

Prosecutions and strikes.

408. There was no prosecution during the year. Last year a strike was reported in the Fort Gloster Jute Mills at Bowreah. This year also the mill hands struck work on account of the introduction of a system of labour under which the operatives worked from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., instead of by electric light at night. The strikers were backed by influential people in Calcutta connected with the *swadeshi* agitation. A body of police was stationed at the Mills to maintain order. The manager also dismissed nine of the ringleaders; and eight of the strikers were sent up for trial and convicted of rioting. These measures had a beneficial effect; and work was soon resumed. The strike at the India Jute Mills at Serampore appears to have been due to the measures adopted by the Manager to ensure punctuality in attendance and the punishment of late comers. The timely intervention of the Police and the dismissal of two of the ringleaders brought about a speedy resumption of work.

Supply of labour.

409. As a result of an exhaustive enquiry, it has been found that there is no general scarcity of factory-labour. Much valuable information has been collected regarding the probable sources of supply for further demands for factory operatives.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1906-1907.]

Foreign sea-borne Trade.

410. The trade of the Province in 1906-1907 is the highest on record. It represents an advance of 12 per cent. on the total of 1905-1906, the previous highest. Both imports and exports show an increase as compared with last

year's figures, the former of 6 per cent. and the latter of 16·9 per cent. mainly in the form of articles of Indian origin.

The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in Calcutta will be apparent from the following figures (in thousands of rupees):—

	Province.	Calcutta.
	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise—		
Imports	42,00,59	42,00,59
Exports	78,90,36	78,47,97

All the treasure imported into, and exported from the Province was received at or despatched from Calcutta.

The Orissa Ports of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri are now the only minor ports of the Province, Chittagong having been transferred to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The bulk of their trade consists of rice for export. The trade of these minor ports is separately dealt with later on. The trade discussed in the paragraphs below is that of Calcutta only.

Imports of Merchandise.

Principal articles imported.

411. The value (42 crores) of the imported merchandise was distributed as follows among the principal articles in the import trade (in thousands of rupees):—

	1905-06.		1906-07.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piece-goods ...	19,38,60	21,44,56	17,01,13	18,62,80
„ other fabrics ...	1,03,34		78,60	
„ yarn	1,02,62		83,07	
Iron and steel ...	...	3,15,66	...	3,73,10
Sugar	...	2,53,18	...	3,34,79
Machinery and millwork...	...	2,34,95	...	2,27,71
Railway materials ...	...	40,92	...	1,91,48
Petroleum—				
Kerosene ...	70,98	97,73	71,23	1,00,30
Other sorts ...	26,75		29,07	
Hardware and cutlery ...	...	75,09	...	87,64
Spices	...	49,70	...	71,59
Drugs and narcotics ...	...	57,51	...	55,62
Salt	...	53,30	...	52,82
Liquors	...	54,36	...	50,39
Woollen goods ...	...	64,19	...	44,72
Apparel	...	51,22	...	42,84

Cotton Goods.

412. The value of the cotton goods imported in 1905-1906 was the highest recorded. The figures for 1906-1907 show a decline of 282 lakhs, or 13·14 per cent. The decrease was shared by all descriptions of goods. The average price of cotton piece-goods was 2 annas 4 pies per yard compared with 2 annas 3 pies in the previous year. The reduced imports of the year may in part be due to the *swadeshi* movement, but are also ascribable to enhanced prices and the dearness of food-stuffs prevailing in the Province.

Metals.

413. The increase in the imports of metals, which received a check in 1905-1906, was in the year under report the highest recorded. There was a considerable rise in the price of almost all descriptions of metals, and the increase in value was shared by all metals except brass and lead. In quantity, steel shows a contraction of 1 per cent.; but, owing to increase in the price, the aggregate value rose by 5·6 per cent. There was an insignificant rise in the quantity of copper imported, but the value rose by 26 per cent. This was the result of the abnormally high price of the metal ruling during the year. In Calcutta the price ruled at an average of Rs. 70½, as against Rs. 56 per cwt. in 1905-1906. Iron shows an increase of 16 per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value. The rise in the imports of this metal, in spite of high prices, must be ascribed to industrial expansion. The trade in tin shows a further fall

this year of 8 per cent. in quantity, but the value indicates a rise of 13·5 per cent. Lead is the only metal which shows a perceptible decline both in quantity and value of 28 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively.

Sugar.

414. In total sugar (excluding confectionery) there was an increase of 64 per cent. in quantity and 32 per cent. in value. The advance in the receipt of refined and unrefined sugar (other than molasses) was 46 per cent. in quantity and 24 per cent. in value, the increase in refined sugar being 50 per cent. and 27 per cent., respectively. The imports of beet sugar amounted to 1,214,631 cwt., a rise of 28 per cent., and of cane sugar to 2,337,198 cwt., a rise of 58 per cent. The most noteworthy feature of the year is the increase in the supply of beet sugar from Germany, at the expense of Austria-Hungary, and the unprecedented imports of cane sugar (refined and unrefined) from Java. The larger trade with Germany in the year was due to the low price ruling for German sugar in comparison with Austrian, for the greater portion of the year. Germany increased her shipments by 455 per cent., while those of Austria-Hungary were reduced by 54 per cent. Java sugar has the advantage of being similar to the Indian product, and therefore less open to objection upon the ground of foreign origin. The trade of this sugar increased in the year under report by 82 per cent. The Mauritius crop was abundant, but the supply to Bengal diminished by 2 per cent. The price of *gur* ruled high in the past year, and the importation of molasses from Java and Mauritius rose by 241 per cent. and 64 per cent. respectively.

Machinery and Millwork.

415. The imports of machinery and millwork show a decrease of 7¼ lakhs, or nearly 3 per cent. Steam-engines, of which the value reached 39 lakhs, rose by nearly 4 per cent. But machinery coming under other descriptions fell by 4 per cent. The greatest increase was in cotton mill machinery, due to the erection of a new cotton mill, the value rising by nearly 6 lakhs.

Railway Materials.

416. To obtain a true idea of the value of imports of railway materials, it is necessary to combine the value of imports on private account with that of those made by the State. The result is an increase from 238·65 lakhs to 320·13 lakhs, or 34 per cent. The increase is due entirely to the greater demand for carriages and trucks, the value of which rose from 71·8 lakhs to 167·5 lakhs, or by 133 per cent.

Petroleum.

417. There were no imports of kerosene oil from Russia in the year owing to political disturbances in that country; but there was a largely increased output from Borneo and Sumatra, and the deficiency in the imports of the Russian product has been made up by a larger supply from those countries and the United States. Though prices have risen, the trade has been good on the whole. The United States increased her shipments by 22 per cent. in value and Borneo by 53 per cent., while the exports from Sumatra rose from an insignificant amount, Rs. 69,000, in 1905-1906 to 8·2 lakhs in the year under report. The shipments of the Straits Settlements declined by 10·9 lakhs, or 44 per cent. in value. The total decline in the imports of kerosene oil from foreign ports was 273, thousand gallons, but there was an increase in value of 25 thousand rupees. The imports from foreign countries do not, however, afford a complete presentation of the petroleum trade of Calcutta. The imports of mineral oil coastwise from Burma were 37·85 million gallons, valued at 115·39 lakhs, against 31·51 million gallons at 97·77 lakhs in 1905-06. The increase was 20 per cent. in quantity and 18 per cent. in value. It exceeded the foreign trade by over 36 per cent. in quantity and 15 per cent. in value.

Hardware and Cutlery.

418. The increase in the value of hardware and cutlery imported was due mainly to high prices for raw materials. It may be presumed that the actual increase in quantities imported was not so great as the values recorded show. Lampware increased considerably in value, and cutlery and sewing machines to a smaller extent, whilst enamelled ware, and implements and tools fell slightly in value.

Spices.

419. The total value of spices imported was 71·59 lakhs, which was an advance of 21·89 lakhs, or 44 per cent. Betel-nuts constitute 92 per cent. of the importations; and although the price of foreign betel-nuts has risen from an average of Rs. 7-0-4 per cwt. to Rs. 10-1-1, the imports of the year increased in quantity from 69 to 73¼ million pounds and in value from 43·25 to 66 lakhs.

Drugs and Narcotics.

420. The value of the trade in drugs and narcotics was 55·62 lakhs, which is less than that in the previous year by 1·89 lakhs, or 3 per cent. Imports of camphor continued to fall, and amounted to 162·1 thousand pounds, or less by 2,000 pounds than that in 1905-06, but the price was enhanced as a result of the scarcity prevailing in Japan. Imports of quinine decreased. Proprietary and patent medicines have risen in value by nearly 2 lakhs, whilst the quantity of cocaine imported advanced from 205 to 339 ounces. Imports of tobacco amounted to 31·22 lakhs, or 5 per cent. less than in the previous year, which was a record year. Cigarettes, the most important factor in this trade, accounted for 73 per cent. of the total.

Salt.

421. A feature of the year under report was the reduction in the rate of duty of Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per bazar maund with effect from 20th March 1907. The quantity of salt received in Calcutta in the year was nearly 400,000 tons. Imports from the United Kingdom increased from 177,695 to 192,383 tons, or by 8 per cent., and from Germany from 22,839 to 37,320 tons, or by 64 per cent. Spain, which had sent trial shipments of 5,000 tons in 1904-1905 and 27,000 tons in 1905-1906, nearly doubled her exports this year. Turkey in Asia sent this year, for the first time, 5,600 tons. The receipts from all other countries declined, and in cases of Red Sea ports and Aden the decline was very considerable, being 51 per cent. and 36 per cent., respectively. The quantity of salt cleared for consumption rose to 400,204 tons, which is much above the average of recent years. The average selling price in Calcutta was Rs. 48-10-2 per 100 maunds, as compared with Rs. 50-11-9 in the previous year.

Liquors.

422. The volume of the trade in liquors increased in the year from 1,441,448 to 1,516,875 gallons, or 5 per cent., but the value declined from 54·24 to 50·32 lakhs, or 7 per cent. About 60 per cent. of the total trade is accounted for by malt liquors, the trade in which increased in quantity from 776,286 to 892,305 gallons, or 15 per cent., and in value from 11·72 lakhs to 13 lakhs, or about 11 per cent. Heavy clearances had been made in anticipation of the enhanced duties, which came into force on the 26th January 1906, and, as a result, there has been a reduction both in landings and clearances for whisky, brandy and other potable spirits during the year. Imports of whisky declined by 18 per cent. in quantity and 14 per cent. in value, and those of brandy by 21 per cent. in quantity and 14 per cent. in value. Other sorts of spirits and liquors show an increase, which is due mainly to larger importation of methylated spirits, from 85,357 to 122,733 gallons, chiefly from Germany.

Woollen goods.

423. The woollen trade generally was affected by the rise in the price of wool, the total value declining by 30 per cent. Piece-goods and shawls declined by 23 per cent. and 61 per cent., respectively. The only goods imported in greater quantity were yarns and knitting wools. The imports from the United Kingdom and Germany declined in value by 14 per cent. and 49 per cent. respectively, and their shares in the total trade of woollen goods stood at 66 per cent. and 29 per cent. as compared with 54 per cent. and 39 per cent. in 1905-1906. Exports of raw wool rose to over 4 million pounds, or 9 per cent., the average price per pound being 5 pies higher.

The value of the imports of apparel was 42·84 lakhs, which shows a decrease of 16 per cent. The figure is the lowest tabulated since 1898-99, and is specially noticeable in the case of boots and shoes, the value of which fell by 41 per cent. to 6·42 lakhs. The fall in these goods represents 54 per cent. of the total decrease.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

424. Imports from the United Kingdom represent 64 per cent. of the total trade (in merchandise and treasure) of Calcutta in the year 1906-1907; this is 5 per cent. less than the figures for last year. The relative positions of other European countries and Australasia in the import trade remain the same as last year, namely, 10 per cent. and 9 per cent. respectively of the whole. Of the remainder, about 12 per cent. comes from countries in Asia, 3 per cent. from Africa, and 2 per cent. from America.

Exports of Merchandise.

Chief articles exported.

425. The value of the export trade of the Province rose from about 67·75 to 78·9 crores, or 16 per cent., the chief increase being in jute. It was

distributed as follows among the principal articles of the export trade (in thousands of rupees):—

	1905-06.		1906-07.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute, raw ...	15,61,37	28,00,68	24,12,50	39,77,86
Jute, manufactured	12,39,31		15,65,36	
Hides and Skins		7,75,89	......	8,12,49
Opium ...		7,02,34	......	7,40,31
Tea ...		6,45,13	......	7,36,97
Lac ...		3,14,82	......	3,45,92
Grain and Pulse		6,30,82	......	3,12,53
Oil-seeds ...		2,32,28	......	2,24,42
Cotton, raw ...		1,34,13	......	1,50,02
Coal and Coke ...		6,54	......	73,89
Silk, raw ...		42,54	......	55,16
Indigo ...		41,03	......	45,07

Jute and Jute goods.

426. The value of jute and of the goods manufactured from it (gunny bags and cloth) represents over half of the aggregate value of the foreign trade of Calcutta. The estimated output of jute in 1906-1907 was 9,585,800 bales of 400lbs. each, as compared with 9,127,400 bales in 1905-1906. The supply, however, failed to keep pace with demand, and as a result prices ruling throughout the year were very high, the average being Rs. 60-4-4 a bale, against Rs. 44-11-7 in the previous year. The exports of raw jute were 3,945,000 bales, valued at 24,12·5 lakhs, against 3,621,000 bales, valued at 15,61·37 lakhs in 1905-1906. There was thus an increase of 9 per cent. in quantity and over 54 per cent. in value. The increase was in the shipments to the United Kingdom and Germany by 110,035 bales, or 7·6 per cent. and 224,671 bales, or 32 per cent. respectively. The year that has just closed has been distinguished not so much by larger exports as by the abnormal prices to which the raw material attained. The total value of jute and jute manufactures during the year was the highest on record, namely, 40 crores, as compared with 28 crores in 1905-1906, the previous highest. The United States is by far the largest importer of gunny bags and cloth. In gunny-bags her imports were smaller than those of the United Kingdom and Australia, being 25·79 millions, valued at 48·27 lakhs, as compared with 10·88 millions at 16·21 lakhs in the preceding year. In gunny-cloth she received 479·39 million yards, against 419·53 million yards received by her in 1905-1906. The increase was 14 per cent. in quantity and 43 per cent. in value. Of the jute goods exported, the United States took about 38 per cent., while the United Kingdom received a little over 11 per cent. only. The share of the United Kingdom in gunny-bags is second to that of Australia only, and stands at 33·82 millions, against 25·14 millions in the previous year. The increase was 34 per cent. in quantity and 50 per cent. in value.

Hides and Skins.

427. The demand for hides and skins has been exceptional, accompanied a continued rise in price during the greater portion of the year. Prices, in fact, rose to a higher range than at any time during the past 30 years. Exports from Calcutta in the year were 4·5 per cent. greater than those in 1905-1906, the value rising from 775·89 to 812·49 lakhs. With the exception of the United States, all the principal customers increased the receipts. Germany, which is the largest importer of Indian hides, took over one-third of a million more than in the previous year, while the United States, which is the largest importer of raw skins, reduced her demand by 5·4 millions. There is a net decrease of 77 lakhs in export to that country, which is probably due to higher prices ruling in Calcutta. The fall in the exports trade of raw skins is due to an increasing preference being shown for the dressed article.

Opium.

428. Exports from Bombay of Malwa opium were the smallest known for many years, and, as a consequence, exports from Calcutta were on a larger scale. The prices in India were lower than in the previous year, the average price in Calcutta being Rs. 1,381 per chest as against Rs. 1,438. The total quantity exported was 53,588 chests against 48,833 chests in the previous year. The Straits took 585 chests more than in 1905-1906, most of this opium being reshipped to Hong-Kong, China, Siam, and the Malay States. Over 3,000 more chests

were sent to Hong-Kong. There was an increase of 80 in the number of chests sent to Cochin China.

429. The prices of all grades and qualities rose during the year owing to the quality of the crop, the reduction of duty in the United Kingdom by 1d. per pound and the extension of foreign markets. The average price of garden tea sold in Calcutta was annas 5 and pies 9 per pound as compared with annas 5 and pies 5 in the previous year. Although a considerable quantity of tea is shipped from Chittagong, Calcutta exported last year three-fourths of the Indian tea sent to foreign ports. The quantity exported last year was 175·9 million pounds, valued at 737 lakhs, against 158·2 million pounds at 645·13 lakhs. There was thus an increase of 11 per cent. in quantity and 14 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom increased her demand by 9 million pounds and Australia and China each by 2 million pounds. A comparatively large increase is observed in the shipments to Russia, which during the year took 13·7 million pounds against 9·88 million pounds in the previous year, while Ceylon which, contributed an insignificant quantity of 214,200 pounds in 190519-06, increased her receipts nine times. Tea.

430. The volume of the lac trade declined by 6,857 cwt., or 2·5 per cent., while the value rose by about 10 per cent. The average export price increased from an average of Rs. 116 per cwt. in 1905-1906 to Rs. 131 in the year under report. The greatest consumer of lac is the United States, which took during the year 118,374 cwt., valued at 165·08 lakhs, or 45 per cent. of the total exports. The share of the United Kingdom was only 25 per cent. Lac.

431. The exports of grain declined very considerably during the year, the quantity falling from 12·06 to 4·62 million cwts., and the value from 630·82 to 312·53 lakhs. The decrease was 62 per cent. in quantity and 50 per cent. in value. The shipments of rice were less than half, while those of wheat were 6 per cent. only. The season was unfavourable in Bengal as well as in Eastern Bengal and Assam. The quantity of rice exported was sold at exceptional rates, and the average declared price for the year was Rs. 7 as compared with Rs. 5-12 in the previous year. The trade in other cereals, gram and "other pulses" also shows a fall. Grain and pulse.

432. The shipments of oil-seeds fell by 8 per cent. in quantity and 3·4 per cent in value. The outturn of linseed, which constitutes by far the greater part of oil-seeds exported from Calcutta, decreased in the year. Hence, all the principal importing countries received less than in the previous year except France. The exports of poppy-seed decreased owing to unfavourable season and higher prices; on the other hand, larger shipments of cotton-seed, tea-seed and earthnuts account for the increase under "Other oil-seeds." Oil-seeds.

433. The exports of raw cotton increased by 15 per cent. in quantity and 12 per cent. in value, amounting to 573,700 cwts. and 150·02 lakhs. The Calcutta trade forms about 8 per cent. of the total exports from British India. The United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Italy, France and Japan increased their demand during the year, while Austria-Hungary and China imported less. Cotton, raw.

434. The quantity of coal exported during the year was 928,400 tons, valued at 73·38 lakhs, against 831,400 tons, valued at 64·77 lakhs in the previous year. There was, therefore, an increase of about 24 per cent. in quantity and over 13 per cent in value. The outturn of coal in 1906 was 9,783,250 tons, of which the share of Bengal was 8,617,820 tons, or 88 per cent. Of this production, Calcutta exported 11 per cent. to foreign countries and 26 per cent. coastwise to other Indian ports. Ceylon was by far the largest consumer of Indian coal, having imported 407,000 tons, against 380,000 tons in the previous year. The Straits and Sumatra also increased their demand, while shipments to China were less in the year under review. The average price of first class Jherria-Bengal coal, loaded into waggons, was Rs. 4-5-5 per ton, as against Rs. 2-10-6 in the previous year. Shipments of bunker coal from Calcutta for use in steamers rose from 851,[illegible] to 896,481 tons in 1906-1907. Coal.

435. The quantity of raw silk exported during the year was 1,309,856 lbs., valued at [illegible] lakhs, against 1,130,[illegible] lbs., valued at 42·64 lakhs in the previous year. There was an increase of [illegible] per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value. France is the largest consumer, having imported 8[illegible]1,000 lbs., or 6[illegible] per cent. of the quantity exported out of India. The United Kingdom took 25 per cent. and the United States about 3·6 per cent. Silk, raw.

Indigo.

436. The exports of indigo in 1906-1907 rose from 19,062 cwts., valued at 41·03 lakhs, to 19,309 cwts, valued at 45·07 lakhs. The increase was 1·3 per cent. in quantity and 9·8 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom, Egypt, Austria-Hungary, Turkey in Asia, and the United States are the principal consumers, of which the United Kingdom took 32·5 per cent. in the year under report, as against 34 per cent. in 1905-1906. Austria-Hungary increased her demand by 1,037 cwts., while the shipments to Egypt, Turkey in Asia, and the United States were comparatively less than those for the last year.

Export trade of Calcutta with other countries.

437. Of the total export trade of Calcutta, the principal shares were taken by the United Kingdom (27 per cent.), the United States (16 per cent.), Germany (12·6 per cent.) and China (8·6 per cent.). The other European countries took 15·5 per cent. between them, and the Straits and South America 4 per cent. and 2·6 per cent., respectively.

Subordinate ports.

438. The Chittagong Port having been transferred to the New Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Cuttack, Puri and Balasore are now the only ports subordinate to Calcutta. The foreign trade of these ports is of no importance, and consisted of rice. The value of the trade was 42·38 lakhs in 1906-1907, against 32·87 lakhs in the preceding year. The share of Cuttack was 54 per cent., against 80 per cent. in the previous year.

Frontier Trade.

[Report on the trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, and Bhutan for 1906-1907.]

439. The total value of the trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, and Bhutan amounted to 302·04 lakhs in the year under review, against 351·43 lakhs in the previous year.

Imports from Nepal.

440. The trade of Nepal represents 89 per cent. of the entire frontier trade, and the bulk of it consists of agricultural and pastoral products. Food-grains are credited with about half of the total value. In 1906-1907 rice accounted for 41 per cent. of the total imports against 50 per cent. in the previous year. There was a great increase in the price of rice, the value having risen 29·2 per cent. as compared with the previous year. In the jute trade also, amounting in the year to 17·67 lakhs, there was a considerable decline of 24·3 per cent. in quantity, and, what is more remarkable, of 17·4 per cent. in value. The imports of gram and pulse and animals, on the other hand, advanced by 3·61 lakhs and 7·56 lakhs respectively. The other principal articles of import were seed, fruits, vegetables and nuts, tobacco, hides and skins, and ghi.

Exports to Nepal.

The exports to Nepal fell from 96·33 to 81·68 lakhs, or 15 per cent. Cotton goods and metals are the most important articles of export. In the year under report cotton goods represent 38 per cent. of the total exports. In the exports of metals there was also a large contraction. "Brass and copper" and "Other metals" show a heavy drop of 1·19 and 1·29 lakhs respectively, and account chiefly for the net contraction by about 21·6 per cent. in the exports of metals and manufactures to Nepal. The other principal staples of exports were salt, animals, leather, sugar and woollen goods. The trade under each of these heads shows a decline as compared with the previous year.

Tibet.

441. The total trade of the year was 21·01 lakhs, consisting of imports 11·53 lakhs and exports 9·48 lakhs, and represents 7 per cent. of the total frontier trade. There is a decrease amounting in round figures to four lakhs in the export trade. The chief articles of import were, as before, wool, representing about 73 per cent. of the entire imports from Tibet and showing a decrease of 3 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Other items of import trade were musk, yaks' tails, horses, ponies and mules, and skins of sheep. The large decline in the export trade was contributed largely by corals and wool (raw and piece-goods), but cotton twist and piece-goods (foreign also shared in the fall. Other principal articles of export were apparel, metals, and woollen piece-goods.

Sikkim.

442. The Sikkim trade represents only 4 per cent. of the total frontier trade. There has been a welcome rise in both the import and export trade, especially in the former. The total trade rose 36 per cent. compared with that for 1905-06. The imports rose to 6·78 lakhs and show an increase of 66·4 per

cent. in the year of report. The principal items of import trade are rainu and fruits, which advanced by 220·8 and 37·2 per cent. respectively. The vale of exports was 5·25 lakhs and show an advance of 10 per cent. over last year's figures. The chief articles of export were cotton piece-goods and yarn, grain, and salt, in all of which there was an improvement in the year's trade, while husked rice and silk declined in comparison with last year.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1906-1907.]

443. This trade advanced for the fourth year in succession, the value rising by nearly 25 per cent. from 1,353 to 1,701 lakhs. Imports contributed 314 lakhs to the increase and exports 34 lakhs. The improvement was chiefly in Indian produce, foreign merchandise being practically stationary. Ninety-six per cent. of the value of the coasting trade of the Province appertains to Calcutta, of which actual figures, in thousands of rupees, were :—

		1905-06.	1906-07.
		Rs.	Rs.
Imports—			
Merchandise	... ...	6,00,76	9,15,11
Treasure	... ...	13,03	21,36
Exports—			
Merchandise	... ...	7,52,47	7,86,20
Treasure	... ...	42,52	51,98
Total	...	14,08,78	17,74,65

The increase in the value of the import trade was shared by all the principal ports. Among the principal articles which shared in the increase were grain and pulse, mineral oil, cotton, raw and manufactured, and hides and skins; on the other hand, salt, teakwood, cocoanut-oil, and sugar declined. In the export trade, jute manufactures were in most demand. Coal, betel-nuts, cotton twist and yarn, hides and skins, grain and pulse were the other principal articles of export.

Railway and River Trade.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1906-1907. Tables I and II.]

444. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal and to other Provinces.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal and from other Provinces.	Exports from the rest of Bengal to other Provinces.	Imports into the rest of Bengal from other Provinces.
1905-06 ...	Mds.	43,653,710	234,444,239	41,612,041	19,869,328
	Rs.	43,28,59,201	76,70,29,671	8,81,17,676	8,88,62,616
1906-07 ...	Mds.	54,220,609	237,808,755	46,479,271	22,361,723
	Rs.	51,03,28,282	81,81,23,158	8,79,14,585	13,68,81,317

Of the total value of the imports into Calcutta (81 crores), imports from the Bengal districts represent 50 per cent., from the United Provinces 13 per cent., from Eastern Bengal and Assam 29 per cent., and the balance 8 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (51 crores), 47 per cent. went to the Bengal districts, 30 per cent. to Eastern Bengal and Assam, about 15 per cent. to the United Provinces, and the remainder 8 per cent. to other provinces.

Imports to Calcutta from Bengal and other provinces.

445. The principal articles of import into Calcutta from Bengal were jute and its manufactures (15 crores), coal (4 crores), rice (about 4 crores). These articles represent about 56 per cent. of the total imports from Bengal. The imports from other provinces consist principally of raw jute and tea from Eastern Bengal and Assam; opium, oil-seeds, lac, cotton (raw), and hides and skins

Exports.

from the United Provinces; and raw cotton, hides and skins, oil-seeds, gram and pulse and wheat from the Central Provinces and Berar. The exports from Calcutta to Bengal comprise mainly cotton manufactures, metals, grain and pulse, salt, sugar, spices, oils, and railway plant; while exports to other provinces consist principally of cotton goods, metals, grain and pulse, sugar, oils, gunny bags and salt.

Imports to Bengal from other provinces

446. The principal articles imported into Bengal from the United Provinces were grain and pulse, opium, oil-seeds, sugar, cotton and cotton goods, metals and manufactures of metals; from Eastern Bengal and Assam, jute, paddy, and rice; and from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton and cotton manufactures, grain and pulse (chiefly gram and pulse), and provisions; while the chief exports from Bengal to the United Provinces consisted of coal, lac, kerosene oil, sugar, metals and manufactures of metals, gunny bags and cloth, tobacco, rice and spices; to Eastern Bengal and Assam of grain and pulse, kerosene oil, spices and sugar; and to the Central Provinces and Berar of coal, rice, raw silk, kerosene oil and tobacco.

Exports.

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts, issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal.]

Total Expenditure.

447. The outlay during the year on Imperial, Provincial, and Local and contribution works amounted to Rs. 24,57,791, Rs. 66,93,428 and Rs. 3,90,257 respectively in addition to which Rs. 44,84,416 were spent by the Local authorities.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

Military.

448. The properties No. 7, Middle Road, and No. 4, Clyde Row at Hastings were acquired.

Civil Works. Salt.

449. At the Sulkea Salt Golas, the additional golas for the bonding of salt were completed, and the construction of new sidings and two additional pontoons was taken in hand.

Opium.

450. The most important of the works in progress at the Patna Opium Factory was the construction of a new cake godown. The reconstruction of the new godown, out-houses and lean-to sheds at Dehri was completed. At Siwan, the new office building for the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent was finished, and land was acquired for the convenience and shelter of the opium cultivators.

Mint.

451. Some of the new buildings required at His Majesty's Mint to replace the existing buildings standing on the portion of the Mint land to be transferred to the Port Commissioners, were taken in hand.

Post and Telegraph Office.

452. Accommodation was provided for the office of the Postmaster-General, Bengal, on the third floor of the building occupied by the office of the Controller of the Post Office. Additions and alterations were carried out in the combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Kurseong and Kanchrapara. The construction of new combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Jherria and Narail, and the extension of the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Puri were in progress. An export and import shed was under construction near the jetty in the Telegraph store-yard at Dhullunda.

Viceregal Residences.

453. The new stables and coach-house for His Excellency the Viceroy at No. 6, Wellesley Place, Calcutta, were completed and the new staff stables and coach-house were under construction. Additions and alterations were carried out on the premises Nos. 1 and 2, Fancy Lane, for the accomomodation of the bandsmen of the Viceroy's Band. A new residential building for His Excellency the Viceroy's Surgeon was in progress at the junction of Fancy Lane with Wellesley Place.

Secretariat Buildings.

454. An electric passenger lift was provided in the Foreign Secretariat Building at Calcutta.

Currency Office.

455. Improvements in the Exchange Hall of the Paper Currency Office were taken in hand.

Surveyor-General's Office.

456. Fire service arrangements were in progress in the Surveyor-General's office.

457. In connection with the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute and College, the students' hostel, hospital and guest-house, &c., were completed, and the Phips' Laboratory was nearly finished. The construction of offices and quarters for the Mining Inspector and staff at Sitarampur, and quarters for the Inspector of Mines at Dhanbaid, was in progress. Miscellaneous.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

458. The extension of the Deputy Commissioner's Court, Chaibassa, was completed. Additions and alterations were made in the Bhagalpur Collectorate buildings. The office building was constructed for the Manager, Government Estates, Palamau. The old Bar library building at Ampta was converted into a Bench Court. Iron record-racks were provided in the record-rooms of the Commissioner's office at Bhagalpur, the Purnea Collectorate, and the Deputy Commissioners' offices at Hazaribagh and Purulia. Sheds for the shelter of witnesses were erected in the compounds of the Bhagalpur Collectorate and the Daltonganj Cutcherry. Collectors' and Magistrates' Courts.

459. The treble munsifi at Narail and the work of converting a portion of the Asansol circuit-house into a double munsifi were completed. A double munsifi was erected at Basirhat and a single munsifi at Dhanbaid. Additions and alterations were made to the treble munsifi at Bankipore. Sheds for the accommodation of witnesses were erected in the compounds of the Midnapore Civil Court and the munsifis at Kandi, Basirhat and Satkhira. Civil Courts.

460. Subdivisional Courts were constructed at Lalbagh, Jangipur and Dhanbaid. The work of converting the eastern wing of the Asansol circuit-house into a subdivisional Court-house was finished. The Madhipura Subdivisional Court building was extended. The Additional Court at Bihar was nearly completed. Subdivisional residences were constructed at Jangipur and Asansol. At Khunti a temporary subdivisional residence was erected, and materials were collected for a permanent residence. Additions and alterations were carried out, and in progress, to the subdivisional residences at Kushtia and Dhanbaid, respectively. Subdivisional Courts and Residences.

461. Two sets of Munsif's quarters at Kishanganj and Asansol and one set at Dhanbaid were constructed. Quarters for the Munsifs at Arambagh and Dantun, and for the 3rd Munsif at Satkhira, were in progress. Materials were collected for two sets of quarters at Narail, Magura and Jhenida and for one set at Ghatal. Munsifs' Residences.

462. Land was acquired for the construction of a new circuit-house at Bhagalpur. The circuit-house at Bankura was improved. Circuit-houses.

463. Liquor and *ganja* warehouses were erected at Meherpur, Khulna, Hazaribagh, Dhanbaid, Gumla, Purulia and Balarampur, and were under construction at Jamtara, Burdwan and Asansol. Excise.

464. At "Belvedere," Alipore, the construction of a new Ball Room and Darbar Hall was commenced, and quarters were built for the police guard. At the "Shrubbery," Darjeeling, an upper storey to provide a supper room was constructed over the Darbar Hall. Necessary improvements, including the construction of additional quarters for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's staff, were in progress to "Chajjubagh House," Bankipore. Residences for the Local Government.

465. Steps were taken to obtain the obelisk for the Plassey Monument from England. For further details, see Chapter VIII of this Report. Monuments and Antiquities.

466. The ground-floor of the extension of the High Court was completed and the first floor nearly finished. High Court.

467. The main jail buildings of the new Presidency Jail, Alipore, were nearly finished. A new 3rd class district jail was constructed at Howrah. Additions and alterations were made in the Krishnagar and Berhampore Jails and the additions and alterations to the Bankipore Jail were nearly completed. A sleeping ward for 30 prisoners was constructed in the segregation ward of the Hazaribagh Central Jail. A double-storeyed hospital in the Monghyr Jail was in progress. In the Arrah Jail, the main wards for under-trial prisoners and for segregation Jails.

were completed. Segregation wards were built in the Bhagalpur, Chaibassa and Gaya Jails. Improvements were effected in the water-supply of the Buxar Central Jail. New sub-jails were constructed at Asansol and Dhanbaid, and were in progress at Tamluk, Khunti and Sitamarhi. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Narail and Jhenidah Sub-jails; the Contai Sub-jail was extended, and the extension of the male ward of the Ulubaria Sub-jail was in hand.

Police.

468. In order to provide extra accommodation for the Police Training School at Bhagalpur, three new barracks and other buildings were constructed. In connection with the proposed Police Training School at Doranda (Ranchi), fair progress was made with the new main building for classes, and with the work of additions, alterations and repairs to the old Military buildings and to the bungalows acquired for use as residential quarters. Additions and alterations were taken in hand to the north-west barrack, near the range at Berhampore for the Constables' Training School. New buildings were erected for the Reserve Police-lines at Monghyr, and a double-storeyed barrack in the Reserve Police-lines at Bankipore was nearly completed. A double-storeyed barrack was built at Darjeeling for married constables, &c. Police-stations were constructed at Taltolla, Khargpur and Sambalpur, and were in progress at Dhanbaid and Khunti. Outposts were built at Khurut and Monglabag (Cuttack). Additions and alterations to the Krishnagar Town outpost were in progress, and a barrack for the Markand Sahi outpost was under construction.

Educational.

469. Additional buildings were constructed at the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, for the commercial classes and teachers; the dining hall was enlarged, and lavatories and night bathrooms provided. An upper storey was added to the existing dormitory of the Dow Hill Girls' School at the same place. The Hooghly College Laboratory was remodelled, and improvements were carried out to the Hooghly Training School. Land was acquired for the extension of the Patna College, the Elliot Madrasah Hostel, Calcutta, and the agricultural garden attached to the Cuttack Training School. An engine, dynamo and accumulator house was built in connection with the proposed electrical installation of the Bihar School of Engineering. Additions and alterations were made in the Government School building at Barrackpore, and a school building was erected at Angul. A *guru*-training school was constructed at Beguserai. The hostel for the Muhammadan students of the Nawab's High School, Murshidabad, was completed.

Medical.

470. A new Paying-patients' Block was under construction at the Presidency General Hospital. The Surgical Block in the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, was well in hand, and the main staircase of the hospital was reconstructed. The remodelling of the central portion of the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, was finished, and electric lights and fans were fitted up in the small-pox ward. The additional barracks for students and the Pathological Museum in the Temple Medical School, Bankipore, were newly completed. The work of constructing a second lecture-room and museum, together with a dining-room and cookshed for the Muhammadan students, in the Cuttack Medical School was finished. Additions and alterations to the hospital building at Angul were in progress. Accommodation was provided for the friends of patients in the Jagannathpur dispensary. A building in the lunatic asylum, Berhampore, was converted into two sleeping wards. Mortuaries were constructed or nearly completed at Jangipur, Tamluk, Dhanbaid, Bhubaneswar, Jajpur and Contai.

Registration.

471. A new Registration Office at Cuttack was nearly completed. The second room of the Registration Office at Bankura was extended.

Contribution Works.

472. Various improvements to the General Hospital, Howrah, were in progress. A phthisical ward was constructed at the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium, Darjeeling. A new hospital and dispensary were in progress at Kurseong, a dispensary was built at Pedong, and improvements were carried out in the Pankhabari dispensary. Hostels were constructed for the Hindu and Muhammadan students of the Chapra Zilla School.

Residences for Government Officials.

473. The premises No. 4, Theatre Road, Calcutta, were purchased for the residence of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. Thirteen bungalows in the Cuttack Cantonment were purchased for use as residences

by Government officials. Residences were built for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police at Bankipore, and the Civil Surgeon at Sambalpur. At Darbhanga, Monghyr, Daltonganj and Puri, residences were under construction for the District Judge, Collector, Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of Police, respectively. Additions, improvements and repairs were carried out to the residences of the District Judge at Burdwan (originally intended for the Collector's residence and subsequently for a circuit-house), the Collectors at Krishnagar and Khulna, the Superintendent of Police, Bankipore, the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore, the Superintendent, Darjeeling Jail, and the Deputy Superintendent, Bhagalpur Central Jail. Thorough repairs were in progress to the residences of the Deputy Commissioners at Ranchi and Chaibassa, the Superintendent of Police, Ranchi, and Bungalow No. 4 at Doranda (Ranchi).

474. In the Government Brick Factory, Akra, improvements were carried out for the better control of silting operations and with a view to extending the utility of the brickfield. Steps were taken to acquire land at Bally to open out a new brickfield. At the Veterinary Institute and College, Belgatchia, a dissecting-room and an operation theatre were built, and a new hostel for the students and other works were in progress. A reading room was constructed at the Patna Oriental Library, Bankipore. Miscellaneous.

Road Communications.

475. The road from Ranchi to Kanki, where the new hospital for the insane is to be erected, was improved. Ranchi.

476. Lands were acquired and demarcated on the Bagodar-Hazaribagh road. Hazaribagh and Manbhum.

Additions were made to the Parasnath Hill dâk bungalow.

Steam road-rollers and watering carts were provided for the roads in the Hazaribagh, Burhi and Purulia sub-divisions.

477. The Darjeeling District Road Committee Road No. 34, from Panighata to Kudma was improved, and the pony track along the Ranjit Valley from Tista to the Manjitar bridge was completed. Darjeeling.

With the first section, 20 miles, of the High Level Tista Valley road, good progress was made. Several heavy revetment walls and almost all permanent masonry work in the bridges were completed. The timber work on one of the Howe Truss bridges was completed. In the second section of the road about 3½ miles of roadway were completed. The Riang bridge of 86 feet span was completed. On the Ranjoo suspension bridge the greater portion of the masonry work was done. From the 25th mile to the end—29th mile—the cutting was nearly completed and good progress made in the construction of culverts, drains, and masonry protective works.

The construction of the Champta bridge No. 8 on the Siliguri-Kurseong road was commenced but had to be suspended owing to subsequent alterations in its design. The reconstruction of the Sirsa bridge No. 22 on the Garidhura-Naxalbari road and the erection of boundary pillars on the road were completed. Bridge No. 13 on the 5th mile of the Tirihana-Bagdogra road was reconstructed. The Inspection bungalow at Siliguri was reconstructed and its cookshed improved.

478. The Cuttack-Sambalpur road within the town of Cuttack is being improved, and culverts and causeways were built for the improvement of the first and second sections of the Cuttack-Angul road. Cuttack.

Improvements to the first section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road are approaching completion. The second section from Angul to the eastern boundary of the Rairakhol State was improved, and the rebuilding of bridges Nos. 186 and 187 on the Cuttack-Ganjam road was more than half completed.

Inspection bungalows on improved plans were nearly completed at Kanjara, Ghatipore and Dhokta on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, and new inspection bungalows at Kutri and Dholepur on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road were commenced

479. The first section of the Bargarh-Bolangir road was completed and the improvement of the Cuttack road was commenced. Sambalpur.

Midnapore. 480. Repairs to the damages caused by floods to the Orissa Trunk Road and the Mohunpur-Khargpur road were commenced.

Shahabad. 481. Bridge No. 55 on the river Kundra at the 362nd mile of the Grand Trunk Road was strengthened with bullah piling and rubble pitching so as to prevent further damage to the floor. In the Durgoati viaduct some cracked stone beams were replaced by steel joists.

Bankura. 482. The construction of a new dâk bungalow at Bankura commenced last year was completed.

24-Parganas. (Sundarbans). 483. An Inspection bungalow was constructed at Fraserganj.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

Calcutta. 484. With the sanction of the Government of India certain improvements were carried out by the Stewards of the Calcutta Turf Club for the better accommodation of the public attending the Calcutta races. The scheme provided for the erection of five masonry stands. Two of these stands have been erected and a third is being erected. The original stands of iron and wood have been demolished.

Darjeeling. 485. The hillsides in the neighbourhood of the old Diocesan Girls' School were partially revetted, and the work of making the drains in the Darjeeling Municipality, fit to carry sullage water, was completed. Half of the existing drains in the Kurseong Municipality were adapted to carry sullage water.

Hooghly. Jessore. 486. Some protective works were completed on the foreshore at Serampore, and similar protective works were completed on the west bank of the Chitra river Jessore, near Narail. A new spur on the right bank was also constructed.

Midnapore. 487. Repairs were executed on certain sections of the Orissa-Midnapore Trunk Road, which had been damaged by floods.

Howrah. 488. A sluice culvert under the Foreshore road in front of the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur was constructed for draining part of the Howrah Municipal area.

Angul. 489. Reservoir tanks were constructed at Kunja and Durgapur in the Reserve forests of Angul. About two-thirds of the work of constructing a reservoir tank near Observatory Hill in the town of Angul was done, and a portion of a reservoir tank was excavated in the Reserve forest at Kurro.

Establishment.

Administrative alterations. 490. The Sambalpur subdivision of the Akhoyapada-Jajpur Division was abolished, and the works comprised in it were transferred to the Sambalpur Division, which was formed with effect from the 1st December 1906.

A new temporary division called "The Calcutta Special Works Division" was formed with effect from the 1st October 1906, for the purpose of supervising the works in connection with the extension of the Viceregal Staff quarters and stables.

Railways.

Control. 491. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. A few small lines of only local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by this Government, all the more important lines being under the control of the Railway Board.

Additions to mileage. 492. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows :—

Standard Gauge—			Miles
Bhajudih-Gomoh section	(Bengal-Nagpur Railway)	...	25¾
Kakurgachi Chord	(Eastern Bengal State Railway)	...	2¼
Dhanbaid-Manpur section	(East Indian Railway)	...	103¾
Ondal-Sainthia Chord	ditto	...	43
Tatulmari Branch	ditto ...	...	1½
Manpur-Paharpur section	ditto ...	...	17½
	Total	...	193¾

	Miles.
Metre Gauge—	
Bhaptiahi-Mahuna section (Tirhut State Railway)	44½
Total	44½

With these additions the open mileage in the Province on the 1st April 1907 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge	2,895
Metre gauge	952
2′-6″ „	164
2′-0″ „	108

493. Owing to the formation of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam the administrative control of the Bengal-Duars Railway was transferred to the Government of that province. Change in administra

494. (*a*) The following lines are under construction and are likely to be completed within the year 1907-1908. Some of them have already been opened to traffic :— Lines unde constructic sanctioned construction

	Miles.
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Lalgola to Lalgolaghat (5′-6″)	2·25
Forbesganj to Nepal frontier (3′-3⅜″)	6·50
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—	
Purulia to Ranchi (2′-6″)	72·28
Tirhut State Railway—	
Narkotiganj to Bagaha (3′-3⅜″)	27·25
Makhana to Bhaptiahi (3′-3⅜″)	16·12
Saharsa to Murliganj (3′-3⅜″)	18·61
Bairagnia to Narkotiganj (3′-3⅜″)	58·05
Bengal and North-Western Railway—	
Dharonda to Maharajganj (3′-3⅜″)	4·00
Savan to Thawe	17·83

(*b*) The following new lines have been authorised for construction :—

	Miles.
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Katihar to Godagiri (3′-3⅜″)	105·00
Tirhut State Railway—	
Bhagalpur Kacheri to Bhagalpur	0·79
East Indian Railway—	
Barharwa to Katwa (5′-6″)	99·14
Bhagalpur to Bausi (5′-6″)	31·04
Hooghly to Katwa (5′-6″)	65·20
Coal lines—	
Miles 170¾ from Howrah on the Jherriah branch to Chandua (5′-6″)	4·16
Toposi to Barabuni (5′-6″)	9·31
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—	
Sini to Gurumaishini (5′-6″)	44·00
Branch line near Khanoodih (5′-6″)	1·97

495. The survey for a line on the broad gauge from Gurumasihini to Sini (44 miles) was completed by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company. Surveys completed.

The Eastern Bengal State Railway completed surveys for proposed metre gauge lines as under :—

(1) Forbesganj station, on the Debiganj branch of the Bihar section to the Nepal frontier, a distance of 7·40 miles, and

(2) Kissenganj station on the Bihar section *viâ* Titalia to Jalpaiguri station, on the Northern section (63·67 miles).

The Eastern Bengal State Railway completed (in the previous year) the survey for a proposed line on the 2′-6″ gauge from Krishnagar to Jhellinghee, on behalf of the District Board and at its expense. The scheme is at present in abeyance pending the settlement of the site of the Lower Ganges bridge.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company completed the survey for metre gauge lines :—

(1) From Chapra to Mashrak (21 miles), and
(2) From Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi, Darbhanga to Khagaria and Samastipur *viâ* Rowsara to Padri aggregating 140 miles.

The Howrah-Amta Light Railway Company completed the survey of an extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway from Autpur to Champadanga, a distance of 7 miles.

Surveys in progress.

496. In the following cases surveys are either in progress or have been authorized :—

By the East Indian Railway.—
Siding from Bhadreswar to the Victoria Jute Mill.

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway.—From Birnagar to Kalna, about 11½ miles in length, for a 2′-6″ gauge line.
Siding from Kankinara station to Reliance Jute Mills at Kankinara.

By Messrs. Martin & Co.—An extension of the Baraset-Basirhat line from Belliaghatta bridge station to Patipukur.

Other projects.

497. A proposal for the construction of an extension of the Bihar-Bakhtiarpur Light Railway from Bihar station to Silao, a distance of about 10 miles is under the consideration of this Government.

A similar proposal for an extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway from Basirhat to Taki and Hosanabad, a distance of about 8½ miles, is also under the consideration of this Government.

A proposal has been received from Messrs. Octavius Steele & Co., for the construction of a tramway under Act III of 1883 along or by the side of the Dehri-Akbarpur road in the district of Shahabad. This will probably be shortly carried out.

Important matters dealt with.

498. The question of the disposal of the narrow gauge line between Ranaghat and Krishnagar *viâ* Santipur, has been under consideration. This Government has recently intimated its concurrence in certain proposals of the Railway Board by which the line will be retained and improved.

An agreement has been executed between the Secretary of State and the Nilgiri Granite and Stone Company, Limited, for the acquisition of land required for the construction of a tramway from Balasore railway station, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, to Nilgiri in the Nilgiri State, to facilitate the carriage of stone from the quarries.

Flood damages.

499. Floods in the rivers in North Bihar in the autumn of 1906, caused a number of breaches in the Tirhut State Railway in the districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. It appeared that the provision in the railway for the passage of flood-water was seriously insufficient. Steps have been taken to make good the deficiency, and the matter is receiving the attention of this Government as well as of the Railway Administration.

Railways controlled by the Government of Bengal.

500. The mileage of the railways subject to control from this Government was as below :—

	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	51
(2) The Deoghur Railway	4·79
(3) The Tarkeswar-Mogra Railway	33·27
(4) The Howrah-Ampta Railway	37·19
(5) The Howrah-Shiakhala Railway	19·75
(6) The Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Railway	18·50
(7) The Baraset-Basirhat Railway	26·06
Total ...	190·56

The light Railways continue to be successful and yield a good return to the shareholders and to the District Boards that share in the surplus profits.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1906-1907.]

501. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1906-1907 are exhibited in the following statements so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation. Works which afford protection from flood or which facilitate drainage are reviewed separately and are not noticed here :— Capital and Revenue outlay.

Capital Account.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1906-07.	Expenditure to end of 1906-07.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1907.
Protective Irrigation Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges	56,13,464	6,46,460	26,85,308	29,28,156
Indirect ,, ...	1,31,055	15,563	68,139	62,916
Total ...	57,44,519	6,62,023	27,53,447	29,91,072
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	6,27,48,555	25,560	6,27,08,194	40,361
Indirect ,, ...	17,60,354	643	17,59,827	527
Total ...	6,45,08,909	26,203	6,44,68,021	40,888
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges	1,38,11,744	4,89,794	1,39,99,413	(—)1,87,6[illegible]
Indirect ,, ...	2,60,122	2,249	2,67,808	(—) 7,686
Total ...	1,40,71,866	4,92,043	1,42,67,221	(—)1,95,355

Revenue Account.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.		Total working expenses.	Net Revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works*	22,91,453	11,82,832	96,521	12,79,353	10,12,100
Minor Works and Navigation					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept	5,42,431	5,66,788	20,938	5,87,726	(—) 45,27[illegible]
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	48,352	1,45,983	7,275	1,53,258	(—)1,04,906
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.	(a) 32,743	(b) 53,543	......	53,543	(—) 20,800

* Inclusive of the Dhaka Canal.

(a) Inclusive of Rs. 2,000 on account of sugarcane irrigation in Bihar.

(b) Inclusive of Rs. 4,720 and Rs. 13,672 expended respectively during the year on improvement of navigable channels, Ganges river and on experimental irrigation of sugarcane by pumping in Bihar.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Orissa Canal.

502. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 18,824. The total Capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,60,36,889. Capital Account.

503. During the year the following works were in progress :—

A lattice girder bridge to carry the Jajpur-Vyas-Sarobar Road across the High Level Canal, Range II, in progress from last year, was fully completed. Thirty-one permanent outlets were constructed in the High Level Canal, Range III. One Branch of the Jajpur Canal, Distributary No. 1 was commenced during the year, and the work was nearly half done. Twenty-seven permanent outlets were constructed on the Kendrapara Canal. Extension of 2 A Distributary, Pattamundi Canal, was in progress. Earthwork was three-fourths done. The foundations of the Kundi Nalla aqueduct were completed, while those of the Suknadi aqueduct were started. Progress.

Length of canals, &c.

504. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during they wear ere—Orissa Canals—canals for irrigation and navigation, 204¾ miles; canals for irrigation only 122 miles, the remaining 9 miles of the Dudhai Canal having been completed during the year; distributaries and minor channels 1,185½ miles, 9¾ miles being added during the year. Canals for navigation on the Hijili Tidal Canal, 29 miles; Orissa Coast Canal 129¾ miles.

Rainfall.

505. The average annual rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 48·20 inches, against 45·88 inches in the previous year. The rainfall was below the average.

Irrigation.

506. The area irrigated was 266,961 acres, against 235,123 acres in the preceding year. There was an increase of 90,829 acres under long lease and of 1,009 acres under *rabi*. The increase in the irrigation was due mainly to deficient or unequally distributed rainfall, while it was aided by the construction of minor distributary channels.

Rates

507. The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 3,96,250, against the demand of Rs. 3,99,542. Rupees 1,355 were remitted and the outstanding balance was reduced to Rs. 1,937 at the end of the year, against Rs. 9,586, the balance on 1st April 1906. The result was satisfactory.

Navigation receipts.

508. The receipts from the navigation tolls on the Orissa Canals including boats and rafts, were Rs. 72,938, against Rs. 75,880 in 1905-1906. The tonnage of boats was 311,533, against 323,692 in the preceding year.

Financial results.

509. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa Canals during the year were Rs. 4,99,803 and Rs. 4,30,440 respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 69,363, against Rs. 79,858 in the preceding year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

510. There was no addition to the Capital outlay during the year, which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 71,515 and Rs. 53,844 respectively, against Rs. 70,418 and Rs. 47,597 respectively in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 17,681, against Rs. 22,851 in the preceding year.

The charges for maintenance were heavy owing to the silted-up condition of the canal and supply channels. The canal remained open throughout the year.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Orissa Coast Canal.

511. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital account during the year. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. Ranges IVA and IVB remained open throughout the year, while Range V was closed for silt clearance and special repairs to the Charbatia and Chargathia locks from 1st January 1906 to 20th June 1906, and again for silt clearance from 15th December 1906 to end of the official year. The traffic increased during the year in spite of the closure of Range V of the canal for about six months. The increase is explained as mainly due to increased export in consequence of the high price of rice prevailing in the Calcutta market. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 37,686 and Rs. 1,26,714 respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 89,026, against a deficit of Rs. 34,424 in 1905-1906. The very heavy working expenses of the year were due to the cost of special repairs undertaken to put Range V into good working order.

Floods.

512. There was one moderately high flood in the Subarnarekha river. With this exception there was no high flood in any of the principal rivers in this circle

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital account.

513. The outlay chargeable to Capital during the year amounted to Rs. 1,444, which was spent principally on permanent outlets. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,05,282.

Lengths of Canals, &c.

514. The lengths of main canal, distributaries and village channels are—, Main canal and branches, 69¾ miles; distributaries, 266·89 miles; village channels, 29·95 miles; and drainage channels, 54·42 miles. The increase in the length of distributaries is due to an error in addition and omission of some of the branch distributaries in the figures given for the previous year.

515. The highest flood in the river Cossye during the year was on the 27th July 1906, when the gauge at Mohanpur read 93·00; the highest on record on the 19th June 1898 being 93·30. Floods.

516. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:— Rainfall.

Station.		1906-07.	Average of ten previous years.
		In.	In.
Midnapore	...	50·24	59·93
Panchkura	...	52·03	58·17

517. The area irrigated from the canal was 61,042 acres, against 74,268 acres in the previous year. Irrigation.

Out of the total demand of Rs. 94,382, including arrears, Rs. 86,234 were actually realized, and Rs. 8,107 were remitted during the year, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 41 only. A large sum was remitted on lands which came under long lease at the close of the season too late to benefit from the use of the water in that year.

518. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 50,318, against Rs. 79,043 in the previous year. The decrease is attributable to the reduction in the toll rates which came into effect from 1st June 1906. This has given a stimulus to local traffic and the earnings are likely to improve gradually. Navigation receipts

The canal was open to traffic throughout the year

519. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 1,56,352 and Rs. 1,71,047 respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 15,295, against a net revenue of Rs. 60,618 in 1905-1906. Financial receipts.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

520. The outlay of the year chargeable to the capital account (direct charges) was Rs. 4,89,794, of which Rs. 51,085 were spent on the Madaripur Bhil channel, Rs. 20,327 on warehouses at Ultadanga, while the remainder represents the outlay on the suction dredger *Foyers*. Capital account.

521. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,81,742 as compared with Rs. 4,68,122 in the preceding year. The Madaripur Bhil channel contributed Rs. 57,806, against Rs. 43,049 in 1905-1906. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 5,03,968 and Rs. 4,57,971 respectively, against Rs. 4,83,741 and Rs. 3,72,666, respectively in 1905-1906. The net revenue was therefore Rs. 45,997, against Rs. 8,11,075 in the previous year. Navigation receipts.

The large increase of Rs. 85,305 under the head "Working" Expenses was mainly due to the following causes:—

(*a*) The working of the dredgers *Nemotha* and *Alpha* in connection with the Madaripur Bhil and the payment of arrears for their work in former years.

(*b*) Changing the floor-plates of the Narcoldanga and Maniktollah bridges.

(*c*) Constructing a new bridge over Tolly's Nala at Kalighat.

522. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers remained the same as last year, 472½ miles in all. Nadia Rivers.

No Capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 45,352 and Rs. 1,53,156, respectively. The net result was a deficit of Rs. 1,07,804, against a deficit of Rs. 28,897 in 1905-1906. The large deficit is due principally to (1) falling off in the receipts owing to the reduction by half of the rates of toll introduced during the year, and (2) increase in the working expenses on account of removal of silt at the head of the Bhairab river as an experiment by the dredgers belonging to the India General Steam Navigation and Railway Company which were chartered for that purpose.

523. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year 1906-1907 were Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 102 respectively, against Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 1,098 respectively in the previous year. The collection of toll on the khal was farmed out for two years, viz., 1906-1907 and 1907-1908 at Rs. 3,000 per year. Gaighata and Buxi Khal.

524. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 29,109 and Rs. 31,847 respectively, against Rs. 22,089 and Rs. 34,222 in the year 1905-1906. The area irrigated during the year was 22,223 acres, against 24,226 acres in the preceding year. Eden Canal.

SONE CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Sone Canals.

Capital account. 525. The outlay (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Sone Canals during the year was Rs. 5,292, incurred chiefly on an addition to the office of the Executive Engineer, Eastern Sone Division. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1906-1907 was Rs. 2,58,14,382.

Lengths of canals, &c. 526. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation at the close of the year remain the same as previously reported, viz., 1,584½ miles.

The average rainfall registered at 12 stations was 40·51 inches, as compared with an average of 46·02 in the previous year.

Rainfall. 527. The area irrigated during the year under review was 563,812 acres, against 502,817 in the previous year.

Irrigation. 528. The area irrigated under long lease at the end of the year under report was 396,140 acres, against 384,069 acres at the end of the last year. The cash-realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 14,51,101, against the demand of Rs. 14,52,772. The remissions of the year amounted to Rs. 1,671, no arrear balance being left at the end of the year.

Navigation receipts. 529. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 42,276, against Rs. 33,926 in the previous year.

Financial results. 530. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 15,60,831 and Rs. 6,19,850 respectively, against Rs. 13,92,781 and Rs. 5,16,353 in the preceding year.

There was a substantial increase in the receipts which was, however, to some e tent, discounted by a large increase in the working expenses. The latter was due mainly to special expenditure required to make good injury caused to the Sone weir by a very high flood and to renewals of lock-gates on the Buxar Canal.

Closure of canals. 531. The Main Western Canal below the 12th mile was closed during the hot weather from 26th March to 30th June 1906.

Floods. 532. There were three floods during the year—the first took place on the 3rd July; the second, which was an extraordinary one, lasted from the 27th July to the 2nd August; and the 3rd flood from the 14th to the 17th September.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS.

Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. 533. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 5,92,287; on the Dhaka Canal the expenditure was Rs. 54,173. The progress made with the works up to 31st March 1907 is as follows:—

Tribeni Canal.

Out of 23 large works, viz., five syphons under rivers and 18 aqueducts one syphon was completed and half of two others constructed, four aqueducts were completed and seven were under construction, foundations of all seven being nearly completed.

The head sluice was completed to within 4 feet of the top.

Of smaller works, viz., 12 bridges and six syphons for local drainage, four bridges were partially completed and three others were under construction. One syphon for local drainage was completed.

Nearly the full quantity of bricks required for all the works on the canal have been manufactured.

The excavation of the canal to the end of the first mile and first half of the second mile has been completed, but a large quantity of earthwork remains to be excavated in the second half of the second mile and in the third mile. With this exception the excavation of the canal is completed up to the 47th mile except for short lengths of a few chains near the masonry works and where nalas, pynes, etc., cross the alignment.

Acquisition of land required for the distributaries was taken in hand. The progress of the contractors, though rather better than in the previous year, was still slow. With favourable conditions during the current year it may be possible to open the first 40 miles of this canal in June 1908.

Dhaka Canal.

The project as sanctioned is complete except for village channels and outlets and some syphons required for drainage.

During the year the Harnaraina, Dhaka and Motia Mohan distributaries were completed. The subdivisional office and clerks' quarters at Dhaka were approaching completion at close of the year.

Considerable repairs and renewals were required to the apron of the weir on the Lal Bukeya which had been damaged by the flood of 1906. The north end of the head sluice cracked badly and will require some expenditure to prevent it being further damaged.

The working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 3,582. The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 2,944, the net result being a deficit of Rs. 638.

The area irrigated from the canal was 9,220 acres, of which 6,295 acres were under *kharif* irrigation and the balance (2,925 acres) under *rabi* season leases. The delay in the realization of the rates was due to want of experience on the part of the revenue staff, this being the first year of working. The rates have been since recovered.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.

534. The area irrigated from these canals was approximately 1,965 acres, of which 1,425 acres were irrigated during the *kharif* season and 540 acres during the *rabi* season. No departmental control was kept over this irrigation. Water was supplied to the canals at the request of the Manager, Hathwa Raj, and of Indigo concerns, who paid the cost of making necessary dams, etc. Saran Canals.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

535. The only work of this class is Teur (Madhuban) Canal, which is 6 miles 10·6 chains in length with one distributary (Lukhowra) 6·30 miles long. Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

The canal was maintained in good order at a total cost of Rs. 3,294, against Rs. 2,233 of the previous year.

The total area irrigated during the year under report was 3,920 acres, against 519 acres in the preceding year.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1906-1907.]

536. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment and tools and plant during the year on embankments and drainage works) was Rs. 8,92,659. Expenditure.

537. A total length of 2,141 miles of embankments protecting 8,619,738 acres was maintained during the year. Lengths of embankments and areas protected.

There has been a net increase of 2,226 feet in the length of the embankments in Orissa, mainly due to the construction of retired lines.

538. In the Orissa Circle the floods in the rivers Brahmini, Byturni and Salindi were fairly high. The flood in the Mahanadi was a moderate one. Floods.

In the South-Western Circle there was a high flood in the Cossye river.

In the Gandak Circle there were high floods in all the rivers issuing from the hills in the north of Bihar.

The flood in the Ganges, as recorded at Bazitpur, was a fairly high one, the reading being 143·90 on 17th September, against 147·74 recorded on 14th August 1879.

539. In the Orissa Circle five breaches occurred, but they were of little importance. In the South-Western Circle 44 breaches occurred in the Schedule D embankments and 10 in the *takavi* embankments. Breaches.

In the Gandak Circle, only two breaches of small importance occurred in the 17th and 18th miles of the Tirhut embankment. There were no breaches in the embankments in the Northern Circle.

540. In the Orissa Circle, levels were taken to ascertain the cost of raising parts of the Argowal Circuit embankment. This has been roughly estimated at Rs. 28,846. A survey is in progress in the Bichitrapur Government khas mahal estate to ascertain the locality and the maximum height and width of bunds that can be allowed for the improvement of the estate. Surveys and Investigations.

In the South-Western Circle, a survey was made and levels taken for a retired line of embankment at Dowlatchak in the Shaikpur Circuit embankment (Schedule D, No. 20).

In the Gandak Circle, levels were taken along the whole length of the Tirhut embankment to obtain more correct values for the datum blocks which are fixed as a record of high flood levels.

Original Works. 541. The outlay of the year (without charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant) under this head amounts to Rs. 42,280.

The more important works were as under:—In the Orissa Circle, the weir across the Janardan ghai or spill channel from the Brahmini river was strengthened, and flank embankments were constructed, the outlay of the year being Rs. 6,599.

In the South-Western Circle, the raising of the crest of the embankment on the left bank of the Hooghly near Diamond Harbour was proceeded with, the outlay during the year being Rs. 12,576. The work has now been completed.

Ordinary Repairs. 542. The expenditure on repairs (without book charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, aggregated Rs. 3,16,472.

The expenditure on repairs to the Orissa embankments was Rs. 24,805, against Rs. 33,810 in the previous year. The total cost of repairs to the Schedule D embankments (class B) in the Midnapore district which are in the Orissa Circle, was Rs. 36,625.

In the South-Western Circle the expenditure on ordinary repairs to Schedule D and other embankments was Rs. 1,09,274, against Rs. 1,42,392 in the previous year. There was a decrease in the districts of Hooghly, Midnapore, Murshidabad and 24 Parganas, while the expenditure in the Burdwan district was rather greater than that of previous year.

On (class C) *takavi* embankments under contract in the Midnapore, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran districts a sum of Rs. 61,418 was expended during the year, as compared with the contract provision of Rs. 1,05,070. The outlay incurred on the maintenance and special repairs of the Gandak embankments was Rs. 35,996, against Rs. 66,984 in the preceding year. The reduced expenditure during the year under review was due to the fact that no retired lines were constructed. The expenditure on repairs to the Midnapore embankments of this class in the Cossye and Balasore Divisions was Rs. 25,422, against Rs. 39,098 during the previous year.

On (class D) *takavi* embankments with an annual apportionment of actual cost the outlay incurred on repairs was Rs. 12,988, against Rs. 7,166 in the previous year. The increase took place chiefly in the districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Hooghly.

River Protective Works. 543. In the Orissa Circle the total outlay incurred on repairs to revetments and other works for the protection of the river banks was Rs. 1,035, against Rs. 4,883 in the preceding year. The expenditure on similar works in the Gandak Circle amounted to Rs. 1,304, against Rs. 4,110 of the year before.

Financial. 544. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa embankments (class A) maintained as agricultural works, exclusive of charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, was Rs. 24,805, against Rs. 33,810 in the previous year, the average rate per mile being Rs. 47. The expenditure on class B Government embankments was Rs. 2,17,378, against Rs. 2,14,566 in the year before; the average rate being Rs. 201, against Rs. 199 in 1905-06.

Government has contracted to maintain certain embankments on behalf of the persons benefitted at a fixed annual charge in the districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Midnapore. The following statement shows the expenditure incurred on these embankments as compared with the contract payments in the last two years:—

Year.	Midnapore District.		Saran District.		Champaran District.		Muzaffarpur District.	
	Maintenance Charge.	Contract Amount.	Maintenance Charge.	Contract Amount.	Maintenance Charge.	Contract Amount.	Maintenance Charge.	Contract Amount.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1905-06 ...	39,098	50,755	26,105	23,900	29,874	20,000	11,995	10,415
1906-07 ...	25,422	50,755	8,137	23,900	15,131	20,000	12,728	10,415

NOTE.—The figures in this table under column "Maintenance Charge" represent the cash outlay on maintenance and repair without any book charges for Establishment or Tools and Plant.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B.C.) of 1880.

545. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajpur and Barajolla drainage works in the Hooghly district in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year. The cost of their upkeep compared with the previous year is shown below:—

	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.
Dankuni	1,126	258
Howrah	5,303	862
Rajapur Burajolla	7,753	9,604
Total	14,182	10,724

Fairly good crops were obtained from the whole of the areas drained by these works.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1895.

546. The only work which has as yet been taken up under this Act is that known as the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district. It is designed to drain the swamps around Magra Hât in the central portion of the tracts enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. The swamps are mainly those along the Kaorupukur khal near Hotar, those drained by the Surjipur sluice, those at Joynagar and along the Srichandra and Sangrampur khals, as well as north of the railway near Sangrampur and at Dhosa and Hobka. The total area covered by the scheme is about 290 square miles. Satisfactory progress was made with the work. The outlay for the year was Rs. 4,04,311, the estimated total cost being over 17 lakhs.

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B.C.) of 1882.

547. In the South-Western Circle plans and estimates were prepared for works designed to improve the drainage of the Arapanch basin. The scheme, as a whole, hinges on the proposed canalisation of Tolly's Nala, and has been deferred till that question is settled. As a measure of present relief, the outfall channel from the existing sluices was cleared at a cost of Rs. 27,070, including charges for establishment and tools and plant.

Original works.

548. A new sluice at Dhutkhali, which had been commenced in the previous year, was completed at a cost of Rs. 26,084 including all charges. A tunnel sluice at Fulbagicha, in the 131st mile of the Khari khal Right embankment, Schedule D, No. 78, was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,330.

In the Orissa Circle the sluices and channels for the drainage of the country within the Argoal Circuit embankment, which were commenced last year, were proceeded with. The total expenditure to end of the year, including charges for establishment and tools and plant, amounted to Rs. 47,176, of which Rs. 31,040 were spent during the year under review. At the close of the year the sluice had been nearly completed, and about half of the excavation of the channels had been done.

Maintenance and Repairs.

549. The Charrial khal drainage scheme was maintained in good condition at a cost of Rs. 1,902, as compared with Rs. 2,492 in the previous year. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D embankments are maintained under the provisions of the Act at the cost of the estates benefitted.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government, but not under the provisions of any Act.

550. Work in connection with the improvement of the drainage channel from Doudpur to Utterpadima, known as the Tajpur drainage project, in the Contai subdivision of the Balasore Division was in progress, but was retarded by the scarcity of labour and delay in obtaining possession of the land. Altogether Rs. 3,716 were expended.

The Bullee Bhil drainage works in the 24-Parganas district were efficiently maintained at a cost of Rs. 5,931. In the Midnapore district the Balliaghye main drain, which is used both for drainage and as a navigable channel, was kept open to traffic throughout the year; but it is reported that silt-clearance is again wanted. The branch drain from 0 mile to the 6th mile-post was closed to traffic for silt-clearance from 1st January to 10th June 1906. The total amount spent on this clearance was Rs. 21,264, the expenditure of the year being Rs. 13,125. The khas tahsil khals in charge of this Department in the same district were maintained in an efficient state at a cost of Rs. 10,001.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

Financial Relations with the Imperial Government.

551. The old system of quinquennial settlements in vogue since 1877 between the Government of India and the Local Government was replaced by a *quasi*-permanent settlement with effect from April 1904. Consequent on the constitution of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, an alteration in the settlement was necessary. Instead of merely redistributing the revenue and expenditure in proportion to the 15 transferred districts, an entirely new settlement was made with this Government. This also is meant to be *quasi*-permanent. It came into force on April 1st 1906. It was based on a total annual provincialized expenditure of Rs. 4,74,40,000 and provincialized revenue of Rs. 4,67,01,000. The difference is covered by a fixed annual assignment of Rs. 7,39,000 from Imperial to Provincial revenues. This Government now retains as provincialized revenue—all the Land revenue from the Government estates, half the remaining Land revenue, half the receipts from Stamps, Excise, Forests and Assessed taxes; all the receipts from Registration, Provincial rates, Jail, Courts of Law, Police, Marine, Education, Medical, Major and Minor Irrigation Works, Civil Works and from some other sources of lesser importance. The expenditure that has to be met by this Government is briefly all incurred under the following heads: Land Revenue, Registration, Provincial Rates, Courts of Justice, Jails, Police, Marine, Education, Medical, Political, Major and Minor Irrigation, Civil Works, Famine Relief; half that on Stamps, Excise, Assessed Taxes and Forests; and various proportions of other heads of expenditure. From Opium, Salt and Customs, the Provincial Government derives no revenue, but it is not charged with any part of the expenditure. These terms will operate more favourably than those of former settlements, as a far larger proportion of the revenue now provincialized is likely to expand in the ordinary course of things, and the fixed non-expanding assignment has been considerably reduced.

In addition, special grants are made from time to time for special expenditure, such as Agriculture, Education, Police, Famine Relief, etc., etc.

The total amount of these special grants provided for the year 1907-08 is Rs. 14,60,000. A further sum of Rs. 50,00,000 has already been provided for the Calcutta improvement scheme.

GROSS REVENUE.

The following statement shows the gross revenue (in the total of Imperial, Provincial and Local Revenues) for 1906-07, as compared with that for 1905-06.

[The figures are in thousands.]

RECEIPTS.	1905-1906.				1906-1907.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Principal Heads of Revenue—								
Land Revenue	1,60,30	1,81,42	...	3,31,72	1,14,83	1,74,21	...	2,89,04
Opium	7,13,61	...	...	7,13,61	7,42,13	...	...	7,42,13
Salt	1,62,84	...	...	1,62,84	1,60,89	...	...	1,60,89
Stamps	91,86	91,86	...	1,83,72	73,53	73,53	...	1,47,06
Excise	94,76	73,70	...	1,68,46	80,41	80,41	...	1,60,82
Provincial Rates	...	44,35	46,09	90,44	...	36,18	34,96	71,14
Customs	2,05,79	...	...	2,05,79	1,92,89	...	...	1,92,89
Assessed Taxes	37,72	12,57	...	50,29	24,87	24,33	...	49,20
Forests	8,39	2,80	...	11,19	5,33	5,33	...	10,66
Registration	...	14,51	...	14,51	...	12,26	...	12,26
Tributes	21	...	...	21	33	...	...	33
Total ...	14,65,48	4,21,21	46,09	19,32,78	13,95,21	4,06,25	34,96	18,36,42
Interest	13,59	2,61	38	16,58	13,28	2,62	35	16,25
Post-office	...	...	8	8	...	...	...	...
Total ...	13,59	2,61	46	16,66	13,28	2,62	35	16,25

Receipts.	1905-1906.				1906-1907.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial	Local.	Total.
Receipts by Civil Department—								
Law and Justice—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Courts of Law	...	6,98	...	6,98	...	5,74	...	5,74
Jails	...	12,87	...	12,87	...	12,08	...	12,08
Police	...	1,34	9,05	10,39	...	1,39	8,69	10,08
Marine	...	15,19	...	15,19	...	15,39	...	15,39
Education	...	6,59	64	7,23	...	5,60	58	6,18
Medical	...	4,57	45	5,02	...	2,43	37	2,80
Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	2,72	25	2,97	...	2,82	21	3,03
Total ...	...	50,26	10,39	60,65	...	45,45	9,85	55,30
Miscellaneous—								
Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	1,76	91	...	2,67	1,63	63	...	2,26
Stationery and Printing	...	1,32	1	1,33	...	1,35	1	1,36
Miscellaneous	50	5,41	2,11	8,02	67	6,50	1,31	8,48
Total ...	2,26	7,64	2,12	12,02	2,30	8,48	1,32	12,10
Irrigation—								
Major works (direct receipts) ...	...	21,39	...	21,39	...	22,98	...	22,98
Minor Works and Navigation—								
By Public Works Department ...	...	6,68	...	6,68	...	6,60	...	6,60
" Civil Department	...	1,22	10	1,32	...	1,19	7	1,26
Total ...	...	29,29	10	29,39	...	30,77	7	30,84
Building and Roads—								
Military Works	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	2
Civil Works—								
By Public Works Department ...	20	2,26	...	2,46	77	3,20	...	3,97
" Civil Department	...	2,18	5,80	7,98	...	1,81	4,39	6,20
Total ...	22	4,44	5,80	10,46	79	5,01	4,39	10,19
Contributions	...	51	28,42	28,93	...	4,99	26,26	31,25
GRAND TOTAL ...	14,81,55	5,16,96	93,38	20,90,89	14,11,58	5,03,57	77.20	19,92,35

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

552. The following statement shows Imperial receipts in 1906-07 as compared with those of 1905-06:—

MAJOR HEADS.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,21,19,733	1,11,37,640	...	9,82,093
II.—Opium	7,12,93,299	7,42,12,555	29,19,256	...
III.—Salt	1,53,38,361	1,60,88,611	7,50,250	...
IV.—Stamps	71,60,123	73,53,349	1,93,226	...
V.—Excise	85,82,792	80,40,696	...	5,42,096
VII.—Customs	2,05,29,980	1,92,88,589	...	12,41,391
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	34,82,562	24,33,629	...	10,48,933
IX.—Forests	7,44,627	5,32,894	...	2,11,733
XI.—Tributes	20,550	33,150	12,600	...
XII.—Interest	13,58,760	13,28,041	...	30,719
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	1,65,123	1,63,155	...	1,968
XXV.—Miscellaneous	48,684	66,176	17,492	...
Total ...	14,08,44,594	14,06,78,485	38,92,824	40,58,933

The several increases and decreases shown in the above table are accounted for mainly by the causes given below:—*Opium.*—Number of chests sold

increased by 3,600; *Salt.*—Larger clearances for consumption; *Stamps.*—Execution of a larger number of deeds consequent on the failure of harvests and the higher prices of food-grains, as also arising from the growth of trade, activity in speculation in coal shares, and the floating of several companies of a speculative nature; *Miscellaneous.*—Larger receipts on account of percentage chargeable on European stores for Provincial and Local Funds; *Land Revenue.*—Collections from Government estates became wholly Provincial under the new Provincial Settlement from 1906-07, instead of 12 per cent. only as heretofore: The Imperial share of the other receipts was also $\frac{1}{2}$ against $\frac{3}{4}$ as before. The recovery of survey and settlement charges in Bihar was postponed owing to distress in Purnea; *Excise.*—The Imperial share was reduced from $\frac{9}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$; *Customs.*—Decrease in export duty, due to smaller exportation of rice, and decline in import duty under spirits and liquors, cotton manufactures and manufactured articles; *Assessed Taxes and Forests.*—The Imperial share under these heads reduced from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ under the new Provincial Settlement; *Interest.*—Reduction in the outstanding balances of loans.

553. The following statement shows Imperial expenditure in 1906-07 as compared with 1905-06:—

MAJOR HEADS.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	6,28,605	7,60,788	1,32,183	...
2.—Assignments and Compensations	1.58,635	1,40,764	...	17,871
3.—Land Revenue	11,82,119	10,58,349	...	1,23,770
4.—Opium	2,83,15,936	2,86,23,403	3,07,467	...
5.—Salt	2,91,331	3,24,335	33,004	...
6.—Stamps	2,19,273	2,04,010	...	15,263
7.—Excise	3,87,982	3,71,536	...	16,446
9.—Customs	9,96,316	10,96,977	1,00,661	...
10.—Assessed Taxes	1,07,927	75,078	...	32,849
11.—Forest	3,87,306	2,89,799	...	97,507
14.—Interest on other obligations	12,742	14,533	1,791	..
18.—General Administration	2,87,618	2,60,972	...	26,646
23.—Ecclesiastical	2,17,999	2,11,589	...	6,410
25.—Political	82,872	5,024	...	77,848
26.—Scientific and other Minor departments ...	19,486	41,356	21,870	...
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions	8,97,123	8,70,605	...	26,518
28.—Civil Furlough	858	......	...	858
29.—Superannuation	45,086	40,828	...	4,258
32.—Miscellaneous	17,839	16,253	...	1,586
45.—Civil Works	5,000	5,000	...	...
Total ...	3,42,62,053	3,44,11,199	5,96,976	4,47,830

The principal increases and decreases are explained as follows:—*Refunds and Drawbacks.*—Large refunds of Customs duties; *Opium.*—Larger payments to cultivators owing to larger outturn; *Salt.*—Entertainment of full sanctioned scale of establishment; *Customs.*—Reorganization of the Customs Preventive Service; *Scientific and other Minor Departments.*—Expansion of the operation of the Veterinary Department; *Assignments and Compensation.*—Owing to the change in the Imperial shares of Land Revenue receipts and Malikhana payments and under *Excise, Assessed Taxes* and *Forests* owing to the changes in the Imperial shares as noticed on the receipt side; *Land Revenue.*—Smaller expenditure under survey and settlement operations; *Stamps.*—Smaller quantity of stamp paper supplied from Central Stores; *General Administration.*—Changes of officers; *Political.*—Owing to the fransfer of charge of Political Agents to the India Estimates; *Territorial and Political Pensioenrs.*—Death of certain pensioners of the Oudh family and of Maharaja Shitab Roy's family.

Land Revenue.

[See Chapter II of this Report.]

Financial Results.

554. The subject of the administration of the Land Revenue has already been dealt with in Chapter II of this report. The financial results of the past year were quite satisfactory. The current demand was more than a lakh higher than in the last year. The total demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 2,94,54,912, and the total amount collected was Rs. 2,87,25,245, or 97·52

per cent. The percentage of current collection on current demand was 98·05. The remissions amounted only to Rs. 50,879, out of which sum Rs. 47,100 was in estates held direct by Government.

Canal Revenue.

[See Chapter IV of this report, "Canals."]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Customs Administration Report, 1906-07, also called the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1906-07. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial.]

555. The gross revenue obtained at Calcutta from the duties on imports according to the schedules on exported rice under the Tariff Act and from countervailing duties on sugar was Rs. 3,47,95,179, representing a decrease of 10·5 per cent. as compared with last year. The duty leviable on salt landed at Calcutta but paid into district treasuries for clearance of the salt from Inland bonded warehouses was nearly 9½ lakhs. If this be added to the figures above given, the net decrease is reduced to 1·2 per cent. The revenue from duties on imports increased *per se* by 1·7 per cent., but that from exported rice declined by nearly 11 lakhs (49 per cent.) and there was a decline of 4¾ lakhs consequent on the reduction of the salt tax from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund. Though this reduction took effect only from March 20th, the clearance of 9,46,164 maunds of salt was finished before the end of the year. Revenue from Customs.

556. There was a fall in the value of imported merchandise, but still there was an increase in the amount received as duties. The total amount collected under the countervailing sugar duties was only Rs. 163 for the year. Value of Imports.

The decrease in imported merchandise was chiefly under the headings Cotton goods, Government stores and Jewellery.

The decline in net revenue is due to a greater amount being paid on account of refunds and drawbacks, the total showing an increase of 35 per cent. on the previous figures. Drawback is allowed chiefly on copper, cotton piece-goods and jewellery.

Excise duties are not included under customs revenue, but the income from this source rose by 112 per cent. to Rs. 23,709. This is because a large number of additional ooms have been set up to supply the demand for "Swadeshi" cotton goods.

557. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House was Rs. 3,36,28,443, representing a decrease of over 2 per cent. from the total of last year, Rs. 3,43,96,772. The net income at subordinate ports—Balasore, Cuttack and Puri—was Rs. 1,53,204. Net income.

558. In the year 297 cases were disposed of. Extra duty to the amount of Rs. 22,266 was realized and penalties to the amount of Rs. 25,319. Undervaluation of consignments of gramophones and accessories accounts for over half of the extra duty. Losses of revenue over importations of cocoanut oil and molasses have also been detected, and action is being taken against the officer responsible for passing the consignments at less then their proper weights. Cases under Sea Customs Act.

559. The testing of yarn was reintroduced, and some instances of short reeling were detected. There were 403 cases under the Act, the majority of them being cases of false trade descriptions. Japanese goods were passed off as of French, English, American and even Bengali origin. Penalties were realized in practically all the cases. Merchandise Marks Act.

560. The full permanent staff under the Wharf Amalgamation Scheme has been entertained. Extra preventive officers were employed to cope with the extra work entailed by the diversion of traffic to Kidderpore Dock and other wharves. Administrative.

The Assistant Collectors have been given fuller control of their various departments. The salt-rowanah system has been abolished in favour of a

simpler system for clearance; some progress was made with the codification of the standing orders into a Custom House Manual, and a Preventive Officers' Manual has been drafted. A Customs Audit Manual has been prepared and further steps for the organization of the Audit and Accounts Departments have been taken.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department, 1905-06. Statistics of British India, Part IV—Financial (Revenue).]

General. 561. The most far-reaching conclusion concerning this department that has been come to of late years is the determination of the Home Government to effect a reduction of the area to be annually settled for poppy cultivation, to 900,000 bighas. Of this area, about 250,000 bighas will be settled by the Bihar, and the balance by the Benares agency. The number of chests to be sold annually will also be restricted.

Reserves. 562. During the past season 38,125 chests of opium were manufactured. This is a decrease of 10,625 chests from the output of the previous year. There are about 36,000 maunds of unmanufactured opium in the vats at the factories, and there are 34,813 chests in stock at present.

Climatic conditions. 563. The season was disastrous in Bihar and rather unfavourable in Benares. Unseasonable rain in February and March spoiled a most promising crop. The drug was constantly washed off the capsules. Wind and hail united in some places to damage the leaf, and both in drug and leaf the output was very much below the estimate.

Outturn. 564. In Bihar there was a decrease of 9,376 maunds, and in Benares an increase of 12,636 maunds. Careful investigations have been made by the Imperial Agricultural Chemist during the year to ascertain the determining factors in the yield of the plant. A number of soils and specimens of the water used for irrigating the crop were examined, but no conclusive solution of the problem was arrived at. In previous years good seed has been distributed with little or no appreciable result; it is the usual custom among the cultivators to vary their seed yearly; hence it seems that the special fertility of certain fields continues to baffle enquiry. At Pusa experimental poppy cultivation was carried on, but the yield was only 2½ seers per bigha. This is poor in comparison with over 4 seers per bigha, in Bihar generally, in the previous year, and over 5 seers per bigha in Benares in the year under review. Unless a cultivator gets at least 4 seers per bigha, his profit is but small.

Settlements. 565. In Bihar 338,020 bighas were settled, of which 6·5 per cent. was test-measured by gazetted officers. But only 328,640 bighas were actually sown. In Benares 643,726 bighas were settled, but 671,064 bighas were actually sown. Of the area settled, 7·21 per cent. was test-measured.

It seems thus that there is a disinclination on the part of the Bihar raiyat to engage for poppy cultivation. No doubt the very low yield (barely 3 seers per bigha) reacts in this direction. The best lands are now often put under potatoes in Bihar. The fixed price paid for opium contrasts unfavourably in the raiyat's mind with the general rise in the price of food-grains. In Benares wheat is the great competitor for the best lands.

The policy of refusing to renew settlements for unfavourably situated or otherwise unprofitable lands is being followed. Formerly opium was produced in districts much further east than Monghyr. It is interesting to notice that in the Benares Agency the tendency is for the area under poppy to fall off in the east and to extend towards the north-west.

Consistence and quality. 566. The average for Bihar is 74·68°, which is much better than the previous year and may be considered satisfactory. The Benares average is only 68·69°. The general quality is reported to have been good in Bihar. Only two bags were adulterated badly. The Benares opium was not so good, as 2,259 bags were more or less adulterated or impure.

Financial. 567. The total sale-proceeds amounted to Rs. 7,23,65,450, Bihar opium obtaining Rs. 91 per chest more then Benares. The average total cost per chest was Rs. 511, and the net revenue derived from opium was therefore Rs. 4,54,02,094.

In the year 52,000 chests were sold at an average price of Rs. 1,370 per chest. This is Rs. 175 less than the average price realized in the previous

year. The reduction is probably accounted for by the increase of 4,000 in the number of chests sold.

568. The proposals to increase the cadre of the gazetted staff have not been sanctioned, as the future of the Department is somewhat problematical. The revision of the eleven volumes of the Opium Manual has been completed. Various steps to improve the Factory buildings, and, in some cases, the outlying buildings in the districts have been taken during the year. The continued recession of the Ganges from its channel near the Factory is likely to cause difficulties in bringing in timber to manufacture chests. If possible, a channel will be kept open. Administrative.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1906-07. Statistics of British India, Part IV—Finance (Revenue).]

569. The system of passes *en-route* known as the 'rawana' system has been abolished. The necessary revision of the rules has been made. As a result of the removal of the restrictions on the free movement of salt, open competition has been encouraged. Retail shops are springing up, and retail prices show a small fall. Administrative changes.

The department is being worked with less than the sanctioned establishment, and a proposal to amalgamate it with the Excise establishment is under consideration.

570. The imports of foreign salt for the year increased by over 8 lakhs of maunds. The value decreased from 53·30 lakhs to 52·82 lakhs. Selling prices in England and in Calcutta were lower. Imports of salt and import duty.

The import duty was reduced from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 a maund with effect from March 22nd 1905, and the average wholesale prices per maund at district head-quarters have now been reduced by an equivalent amount. A further reduction from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund came into operation on March 20th 1907. In the last eleven days of the year nearly 35,000 tons were cleared at this reduced rate. Clearances for consumption totalled over 400,000 tons—a figure far higher than that of any recent year. Only 45,000 tons in all remained in bond at the close of the year. The demand for Spanish salt has more than doubled in the year. Supplies have arrived also from Port Said and the Gulf of Smyrna. Aden, Red Sea and Persian Gulf ports supply very little salt now.

571. The average rate of consumption per head works out at 13·5 lbs. in the saliferous districts and 11·2 lbs. in the other districts. The abolition of the 'rawana' system has done away with the collection of some statistics in detail. An attempt was made to supply their place with figures furnished by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence for imports into certain districts. But his figures show smaller imports for the whole of these districts, than the total consumption reported by the Collectors for only the saliferous portions of these districts. Further enquiries are being made. Consumption.

572. The financial results of the year show a net revenue of over one hundred and fifty-six lakhs, which is 4·8 per cent. higher than that of last year. The charges for the past year are considerably less than those for the two preceding years. Fiscal Results.

The average selling price of salt at Calcutta during the year was 7 annas 9 pies per maund. The duty was Re. 1-8 per maund for the first 11½ months of the year and the average retail selling price was Rs. 3·2 per maund.

573. Illicit salt was attached in 387 cases, released in 3 and confiscated in 414 cases during the year. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 177, 1 and 140. There were 387 seizures and 5 unsuccessful house-searches during the year, last year's figures being 152 and 1. Preventive measures.

574. Prosecutions were initiated in 175 cases involving 217 persons. Of these, 198 were convicted, and in one batch of cases the prosecution of 12 persons failed on the technical point that the search-party was not accompanied by a Head Constable. Prosecutions.

A large increase in cases in the 24-Parganas district is attributed to a general misunderstanding of the abolition of the rawana system. Its abolition was believed to authorize the preparation of salt for domestic use, and the prevalence of offences involving petty amounts of salt bears out this view.

Trade in Saltpetre in Bengal.

575. During the year 19,576 maunds of salt were educed in the manufacture of saltpetre, and were removed, on payment of duty, from the refineries.

EXCISE.

[Statistics of British India, Part IV—Finance (Revenue).]

Excise Committee.

576. The report of the Excise Committee was completed and submitted. Various recommendations of a general nature, and others expressly applicable to Bengal, have been taken into consideration, and efforts to put them into practice have already been begun. The general policy is to make the tax on liquor as high as it is possible to raise it without stimulating illicit production to a degree which would increase instead of diminish the total consumption, and without driving people to substitute deleterious drugs for alcohol or for a more or less harmful form of liquor. The abolition of outstills is the first thing aimed at, keeping in view the settled policy of Government to "minimise temptation to those who do not drink, and to discourage excess among those who do."

Administrative changes.

577. In pursuance of this policy, the contract system of supplying country spirits has been applied to the districts of Darjeeling, Murshidabad, Jessore and Khulna. From the 2nd January 1907 the duty on country rum was enhanced to the tariff rate of Rs. 7 per gallon L.P. The prohibition of the sale of intoxicants of all kinds to children under 14 years of age, the issue of excise licenses for the sale of medicated liquors are important reforms which were introduced during the year. Special mention may also be made of the prohibition of the bringing into British India of cocaine by means of the post, and the restriction of its importation by any other means to persons specially permitted by the Local Government.

Revenue.

578. The total receipts of the year amount to 160¾ lakhs, which represents an increase of over 7½ lakhs on the figures of the previous year. Country spirit, *ganja* and opium respectively account for 87 lakhs, 26¾ lakhs and 23½ lakhs out of the total revenue of the year. The receipts from country spirit and opium show an increase of 6¾ lakhs and 1 lakh respectively, while the receipts from *ganja* have declined to the extent of half a lakh. During the year under report, the incidence of taxation per gallon of L.P. spirit under the Sadar distillery system was Rs. 5·7 and under the contract supply system Rs. 4·4; and the average fee for each outstill was Rs. 2,109. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 5·7, Rs. 3·9 and Rs. 2,009 respectively, taking the same geographical areas, irrespective of the change of system. A further increase of duty on country spirit in the contract distillery areas has been sanctioned from the beginning of the current year; and the rates in some districts will probably bear still further increase.

Country spirit.

579. More than one-fourth of the total revenue from country spirit was collected in the town of Calcutta, which is supplied from the Russa distillery. There was again a considerable increase in the consumption of such liquor in Calcutta, which is, however, partly (more than half) balanced by a falling off in the consumption of country rum. The increase of population of the town, and the increase of wages, may be a sufficient reason for the net increase of about 2½ per cent. on the total consumption of country spirit and country rum taken together. On the other hand, there has been a large increase in the number of convictions for drunkenness in Calcutta and suburbs, during the year under report. These results may indicate merely greater activity on the part of the Police, or a real increase of drunkenness. The Government of India have recently directed, on the recommendation of the Excise Committee, that a record should be maintained of convictions for drunkenness in places where it is punishable, as well as of action taken against licensees for permitting it, and that the subject should be noticed in the Annual Administration Reports.

The large number of prosecutions for the illicit sale of country spirits in Calcutta was probably the result of the enforcement of closure of the shops at an early hour in the night. The question whether the limit of possession of country spirit in Calcutta, which is now fixed at 12 reputed quart bottles, is not unnecessarily high, and whether a reduction of the limit will strengthen the hands of the Preventive officers in checking illicit sales is about to be considered.

As regards the working of the Russa distillery, steps are being taken to effect the separation of manufacture and wholesale vend from retail vend, and it is hoped that this will tend to reduce the number of distillers and thereby assist in concentrating manufacture. Economic loss is involved in the present method of manufacture, but caution is necessary in pushing reforms creative of monopoly in Russa, as in other distilleries. The quantity of spirit which this distillery is called upon to supply is very large.

Contract supply system.

580. The full effect of the introduction of the contract system of supply is being carefully watched, but cannot yet be gauged with accuracy; and it is premature to attempt a complete estimate. The new system is credited with having checked drunkenness on its introduction in the district of Darjeeling. On the other hand, it is reported that a fixed price has led to increased sales with the introduction of the system in Burdwan and in Manbhum since the beginning of the current year. The difficult problem of continuing the issue of weak liquor under the contract supply system is being considered. The system provides for the supply of weak liquor at a moderate price in definite areas, the liquor being diluted under the supervision of Excise officers at the nearest warehouse. The cost of carrying weak liquor is excessive, and there is the further difficulty that liquor below a certain strength will not keep good for more than a few days.

Number and location of shops.

581. Difficulty is often experienced by the licensees, both in Calcutta and in the districts, in obtaining sites for liquor shops. It is suggested that sites and buildings should be acquired for such shops. This suggestion, so far as it relates to large towns in this Province, is in conformity with the views expressed by the Government of India in dealing with the recommendations made by the Indian Excise Committee in Chapter X of their Report. It has, however, to be borne in mind that it is not possible to fix the site of a liquor shop once for all, as the locality may in course of time become unsuitable owing to a change in the surroundings. As regards Calcutta, it was decided in the year 1905 that an endeavour should be made to induce the owners of suitable buildings to lease them to the successful bidders at the auctions. The Indian Excise Committee in paragraph 240 of their Report have suggested that a local Committee should be appointed in Presidency towns to advise as to the requirements with regard to shops. The Government of India have approved the appointment of such committees and proposals for giving effect to the orders of Government, in the case of Calcutta, will soon be submitted.

Country rum.

582. The falling off in the consumption of country rum occurred mainly in Calcutta, where, as above pointed out, there was an increase in the consumption of country spirit. During the past few years Bengal has depended entirely on distilleries outside the province for its supply of country rum During the year under report, however, two new distilleries were opened in the Province, viz., one at Konnagor, in the district of Hooghly, and the other at Asansol, in the district of Burdwan, for manufacturing country spirits from mahua by improved methods under contract to supply certain areas, and at these distilleries rum also is made. At the instance of the authorities in the United Provinces, rules were issued during the year permitting the importation of rum from the Cawnpur Sugar Works Company's distillery, but it does not appear that any rum was actually imported from that distillery during the year.

Imported liquors.

583. Imported spirit has established itself in popular favour in certain districts. Between that spirit and country spirit supplied under the contract system there is a certain amount of competition.

It is said that the fees of several imported liquor shops had to be reduced owing to the competition of railway refreshment-rooms, which at present pay very small fees. In dealing with the recommendations of the Indian Excise Committee, the Government of India have decided that when liquor is sold in railway refreshment-rooms to persons other than those who resort to them for meals, the license fee should be the same as that charged for ordinary foreign liquor shops. Effect will be given to this order.

Methylated spirit.

584. Definite proposals for the levy of a nominal fee for licenses for the sale of methylated spirit will be submitted soon.

Tari.

585. The system of "canteens" for vend of *tari* which exists in Bihar does not accord with the principle underlying the general licensing system, which is that licenses give a monopoly of vend within a certain area. It is

probably responsible to some extent for the absence of competition for the licenses, and a substantial reduction in the number of licenses is likely to improve the position of the vendors.

Pachwai.

586. Though the year was one of scarcity and high prices of food-grains, the receipts from *pachwai* show a small increase of Rs. 25,232. As the price of country spirit is raised by the abolition of the outstills, the aboriginal races will probably more and more resort to rice-beer or *pachwai*. This would often be a reversion which should be welcomed, and the gradual withdrawal of the concessions now enjoyed by these races with regard to home brewing of *pachwai*, which has been decided upon, will be a further measure towards temperance.

In compliance with the orders of the Government of India on the recommendations of the Indian Excise Committee in paragraph 181 of their Report, local enquiries are now being made as to the possibility of introducing a system of licensing the manufacture of *bakhar* (yeast).

Ganja.

587. There was a large fallingoff in the receipt from *ganja* owing mainly to the failure of the crop. The existence of smuggling of *ganja* from Ganjam into the Khondmals and the districts of Puri and Sambalpur has been brought to the notice of the Government of Madras.

Bhang.

588. The duty on *bhang* is 8 annas a seer, except in six districts, where the rate was raised to 12 annas a seer in the year 1900, and in Sambalpur where the rate is Re. 1 a seer. There has been a large increase in the consumption of this drug during the past two years, and a moderate increase in the general rate of duty may be called for. At present the receipts from license fees are more than double the amount yielded by the duty, while the accepted principle of Excise taxation is that the bulk of the revenue should be derived from the duty, and that license fees should form a supplementary impost for the adjustment of inequalities in local conditions and other trade incidents.

On the ground that it is desirable to encourage consumption of a less harmful stimulant, it has been recommended that licensed vendors of *ganja* should be allowed to sell *siddhi* without taking out a separate license. There is no positive information that the same persons consume both drugs. But if, as is likely, the trade in *ganja* is more profitable than that in the cheaper drug *bhang*, vendors, allowed to deal in both articles, would try to push the sale of *ganja* at the expense of *bhang*; and the result would be directly contrary to that intended. On similar grounds it has been held that licenses for the sale of *tari* and country spirits should not be given to the same parties.

Opium.

589. Important cases of smuggling of opium from the producing districts were detected during the year, but there is reason to believe that organized bands of smugglers convey large quantities of the drug without detection. There are considerations connected with the policy of keeping down the retail selling price of opium to the rate of 4 annas a tolah in the producing districts which should not be overlooked. The price at which opium is sold at treasuries in the districts of the Patna Division is Rs. 17 a seer, and the vendors should be allowed a sufficient margin of profit after meeting the license fees, shop expenses, etc., to make honest trade possible. It has also to be remembered that these vendors are in the best position to promote the illicit traffic in opium by buying in the small supplies from the cultivators, or by passing opium, purchased at the local treasury, to other parts of the country where the price is much higher. As noted above in paragraph of this report, large reductions in the cultivation of opium are in progress in Bihar, and in those tracts special watchfulness by Excise Officers is required.

The spread of the opium habit in Orissa has been noticed and the treasury price of opium in Orissa has been recently increased. The figures relating to consumption of opium, specially in the Balasore district, will be further examined in order that it may be ascertained how much of the issues goes to the Tributary States; and it will be considered whether remedial measures can be proposed.

Cocaine.

590. The measures taken against the spread of the cocaine habit have not been in vain, as illicit supplies are now so costly that the smugglers have been put to the necessity of imposing adulterations upon their customers. It is reported, however, that persons who have acquired a debased taste for such stimulants are turning to other like stimulants.

591. There was a decrease in the total number of persons arrested during the past year for offences against the excise and opium laws, as compared with the preceding year. The contract distillery system has been introduced into a part of the Sonthal Parganas district from the current year, and it is hoped that this measure may be a further check on illicit distillation in this district. It is thought that illicit distillation goes on over the greater part of the districts of the Presidency Division, and that the Excise staff is not sufficiently powerful or intelligent to check the smuggling of opium. There is reason to think that greater attention is paid to the less important offences, either for the sake of rewards or because these cases are more easy of detection, than to the serious offences involving large loss of revenue. Thus it is noticed that during the year under review the number of arrests for illicit distillation of spirits and smuggling of opium was much smaller than in the preceding year, while arrests for unlicensed sale of *ganja* and *tari* and breaches of conditions of licenses were more numerous. Instructions calculated to correct this tendency, if it exists, on the part of the Preventive officers will be issued. The Inspector-General of Police will be consulted as to the steps which should be taken with a view to secure the active co-operation of *chaukidars* in the prevention of excise offences, as at present they do not appear to co-operate with the Preventive staff. Excise offences.

592. Legislation for regulating the possession of, and traffic in, *mahua*, on the lines of the Bombay Mhowra Flowers Act of 1892 in order to place an effective check on illicit dealings in country spirit has been suggested. It has to be borne in mind in the first place that *mahua* is largely consumed as a food in this province, and in the second place it could scarcely be established that anywhere in Bengal there is much drunkenness due to the use of *mahua* liquor, or that the authorities have had to deal with such violence and resistance to the Police as were reported in the case of the Thana and Kolaba districts. It is observed also that the Excise Committee in paragraph 299 of their Report stated that they did not recommend extension of the Bombay Act. Proposal for legislation with regard to mahua.

STAMPS.

[Statistical information for the Stamp Department, 1906-07. Statistics of British India, Part IV—Financial Revenue.]

593. The revenue collected during the year under these Acts amounted to Rs. 1,42,36,693, which is Rs. 53,412 higher than last year. The increase was derived entirely from non-judicial stamps. The total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 3,53,641. This is higher by ·13 per cent. than last year's figures, and the increase is explained by the larger amount of discount or commission allowed to the vendors. Revenue under Stamp and Court Fees Acts.

594. Excluding stamps for copies, the sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps fell from Rs. 96,13,749 to Rs. 94,66,666. The largest decrease (in Calcutta) was over three lakhs. This is attributed to the smaller amount of duty paid in probate and letters of administration cases, and partly to the abolition of salt 'rawanas.' Considerable decreases are shown in Muzaffarpur, Hazaribagh, Jessore and Nadia districts. A decrease in the number of civil suits and in probate fees is the explanation advanced; and the same is the explanation for the increases in Darbhanga, Bankura, Murshidabad, Manbhum, Patna, Gaya, Khulna and Puri. In Ranchi and Midnapore the increase is attributed to the settlement operations in progress in these districts. Court-fee Stamps.

595. An increase of over four lakhs, 11·1 per cent., is reported under the heading non-judicial stamps, as compared with the previous year. Impressed stamps show an increase of nearly three lakhs, attributed to the greater number of deeds executed, consequent on the comparative failure of the harvests and the high prices for food-grains. Non-judicial Stamps.

The increase in share-transfer stamps reflects the great activity on the Calcutta stock market in coal shares and speculative company promoting.

596. There is a decrease of 20 vendors in Calcutta; this is directly due to the introduction of the unified postage and revenue stamps to replace the old receipt stamps. The total decrease for the whole province is 9 only, and in all 2,978 vendors were engaged. Vendors.

The question of giving the District Judge direct powers of supervision over stamp-vendors, whose usual place of business is in the Civil Court compound, was considered, and an addition was made to the rules under the Court Fees Act authorizing the District Judge to examine at any time or to depute a Gazetted officer to examine the stock of stamps in the vendor's possession.

Breaches of the Acts or Rules. 597. In all 1,086 persons were tried for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act as against 650 persons in the previous year. The fines realised also showed an increase. The increase was most marked in Calcutta, and special enquiries in this connection are being made.

Penalty for deficient duty. 598. In comparison with last year's figures, there was a decrease of 89 cases and of over two thousand rupees penalty and deficient stamp duty levied during the year by the Courts. Revenue officers decided 122 fewer cases, but realised over Rs. 17,000 more as duty and penalty.

INCOME TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for 1906-07 and Resolution of the Board of Revenue thereon. Statistics of British India, Part IV—Financial Revenue.]

Financial Results. 599. The net revenue shows an increase of over two lakhs, or 4·5 per cent. on the figures for the previous year; the total amount realized was over forty-eight lakhs and one-half, and the collection and other charges amounted to 3·4 per cent. of this total. The increase was derived from all the main classes, namely, salaries, companies, securities and 'other sources.'

The total number of assessees in the lowest class (*i.e.*, incomes of from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250) was thirty less than in the previous year. There were 224 assessments in this class cancelled on appeal by new assessees. This represents 5 per cent. of the new assessments.

Increases and collections. 600. There are increases in the total number of assessees by 1,500 and in the total demand of nearly two lakhs during the year. The greater part of these was in Calcutta, and this result has been achieved by the revision of a larger number of streets and by the increased incomes derived from the generally prosperous condition of business.

In some districts the total demand was realised within the year: in the others over 97 per cent. was collected, which is satisfactory.

Administrative. 601. The clerical establishments got a general provisional increase of salary. The lower grades got grain-compensation allowance. Additional establishments were entertained in Calcutta.

Sanction was accorded by the Government of India to the proposal to pay mufassal Income-tax assessors by a time scale instead of by grades. This will prevent the recurrence of such cases as that of an officer serving for nineteen years on the same pay in a responsible position, and with no prospect of employment outside this special line.

Forest Revenue.

[Report on the Forest Administration in the Province of Bengal for 1906-07.]

Receipts and Expenditure. 602. Under the terms of the current *quasi*-permanent adjustment of financial relations with the Imperial Government, this Government pays half of the expenditure on Forests and retains half the receipts therefrom. In the current year the provincial share of the receipts was Rs. 5,33,000; and of the expenditure, Rs. 3,16,000. The receipts during the past year were appreciably in excess of those for last year. The expenditure was also higher, but the tendency is for the receipts to increase very largely in the future as the timber comes to maturity.

Every division in the Province, except the newly established one in the Sundarbans, shows a profit on the year's working. Angul for the first time shows a profit. The future prospects of this division are hopeful.

Provincial Finance.

603. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial services for 1906-07 as compared with those of 1905-06:—

(The figures are in thousands.)

Receipts.	Actuals, 1905-06.	Actuals, 1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	1,30,00	1,10,48
Principal Heads of Revenue—		
I.—Land Revenue—		
Proper	75,28	1,62,06
Adjustments	+95,63	+12,15
IV.—Stamps	71,60	73,53
V.—Excise	66,76	80,41
VI.—Provincial Rates	36,48	36,18
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	11,61	24,34
IX.—Forests	2,48	5,33
X.—Registration	10,82	12,25
Total ...	3,70,68	4,06,25
XII.—Interest	2,52	2,62
Receipts by Civil Department—		
XVI.—Law and Justice—		
Courts of Law	5,61	5,74
Jails	12,20	12,08
XVII.—Police	1,27	1,39
XVIII.—Marine	15,05	15,39
XIX.—Education	5,81	5,60
XX.—Medical	4,54	2,43
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,72	2,82
Total ...	47,20	45,46
Miscellaneous—		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	86	63
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,23	1,35
XXV.—Miscellaneous	5,05	6,50
Total ...	7,14	8,48
Irrigation—		
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	21,39	22,98
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department	6,68	6,60
By Civil Department ...	1,22	1,19
Total ...	29,29	30,77
Buildings and Roads—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department	2,26	3,20
By Civil Department ...	1,92	1,81
Total ...	4,18	5,01
Contributions	44	4,99
Total ...	4,61,43	5,03,57
Receipts of the districts transferred ..	54,53	......
Total Revenue ...	5,15,96	5,03,57
GRAND TOTAL ...	6,45,96	6,14,05

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1905-06.	Actuals, 1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.
Direct demand on the revenues—		
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,14	1,17
2. Assignments and Compensations	30	69
3. Land Revenue	32,28	35,27
6. Stamps	2,19	2,04
7. Excise	3,02	3,72
8. Provincial Rates	57	56
10. Assessed Taxes	36	75
11. Forests	1,29	3,16
12. Registration	6,08	6,43
Total ...	47,32	53,79
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	2,10	2,36
15. Post Office	2	......
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
18. General Administration	19,29	18,41
19. Law and Justice—		
Courts of Law	71,28	74,10
Jails	24,50	26,63
20. Police	58,93	69,05
21. Marine	12,70	11,74
22. Education	31,69	38,51
24. Medical	21,74	21,97
25. Political	13	41
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	9,72	9,74
Total ...	2,49,98	2,70,56
Miscellaneous—		
29. Superannuation, etc.	23,92	24,87
30. Stationery and Printing	10,79	12,85
32. Miscellaneous	3,47	3,47
Total ...	38,18	41,19
Famine Relief and Insurance—		
33. Famine Relief	...	7,11
Irrigation—		
42. Major Works—		
Working expenses	10,18	11,39
Interest on debt	24,52	21,21
43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department	21,57	19,67
By Civil Department	10	10
Total ...	56,37	52,37
Buildings and Roads—		
45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department	5,958	66,93
By Civil Department	1,70	1,87
Total ...	61,28	68,80
Contributions	22,77	26,30
Total ...	4,78,02	5,22,38
Charges of the districts transferred for 6½ months	57,46	.....
Total Expenditure ...	5,35,48	5,22,38
Closing balance	1,10,48	91,67
GRAND TOTAL ...	6,45,96	6,14,05
Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	—19,52	—18,81

Variations.

604. The increase under *Land Revenue* was chiefly due to the collections from Government Estates becoming wholly Provincial under the new Provincial Settlement from 1906-07, instead of 12 per cent. only as heretofore. The Provincial share of the other receipts was also ½ against ¼ as before. Under *Adjustments* the decrease was due to the new Provincial Settlement under which the fixed adjusting entry was reduced from Rs. 49,63,000 to Rs. 7,39,000, and the special assignment for Primary education and grants to District Boards, etc., having ceased. The variations under the heads *Stamps*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*, which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Provincial Rates* was due to short collections of the Public Works Cess in the districts of Gaya, Darbhanga and Ranchi, chiefly owing to non-payment of dues by the Tikari Raj, the Muksudpur Raj, the Darbharga Raj, and various others. The increase under *Registration* was attributed partly to growth of revenue, and partly to a larger number of registrations, due to increase in sales and mortgages of property, and in obligations for payment of money, due to high prices of food-grains. The increase under *Interest* was distributed to the several heads, while that under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* was due to larger receipts from Magisterial fines. The decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller cash sales and supplies to public consuming departments. The increase under *Police* was for larger recoveries for punitive police and for police supplied to private persons; while that under *Marine* occurred under pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta. The decrease under *Education* was partly for smaller receipts from fees in Government Colleges—General, but chiefly under Miscellaneous. There was a special contribution of 2 lakhs from the Calcutta Hospital Port Dues Fund in 1905-06 towards the maintenance of the Presidency General Hospital, and hence the increase under *Medical* in that year. There were smaller receipts in 1906-07 from paying patients in Lunatic Asylums. The increase under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to larger receipts of Emigration fees. The decrease under *Superannuation* was due to the reduction in the number of subscribers to the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations, while the increase under *Stationery and Printing* was due to larger sales of Gazettes, while that under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly under unclaimed deposits.

The increase under *Irrigation Major Works* occurred chiefly in the Sone canals, due to large area of *kharif* irrigation and partly from the Orissa project due to increased demand for canal water. The decrease under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due to a reduction in the toll rates in the Nadia Rivers during the flood season. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was partly under "Rents of Buildings" due to the construction of more rentable buildings, and partly under Refunds and Miscellaneous.

Expenditure.

605. The increases under *Assignments*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*, which are divided in fixed proportions between Provincial and Imperial, were due to the increase in the Provincial shares as explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Land Revenue* was, partly under charges of District Administration, and partly under Survey and Settlement charges, while the decrease under *Stamps* was under stamp paper supplied from Central stores. The increase under *Registration* was due to partial effect of the reorganization scheme, and to the entertainment of additional Sub-Registrars and temporary establishment in Calcutta, while that under *Interest* was due to larger outstanding mean balance of the Provincial Loans. There were some special charges in 1905-06 under *General Administration*, which were explained in the report for last year, and hence the increase under that head in that year. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* was due to larger payments of fees to pleaders in criminal cases and for the payment of grain-compensation allowance, while that under *Jails* was chiefly in dietary charges owing to the increase in population and to the high prices of food-grains. The increase under *Police* was partly for the payment of grain allowance, but chiefly for the reorganization of the Department and increased expenditure on petty construction and repairs. The decrease under *Marine* was chiefly under Marine stores and coal for building and repairs, and partly under salaries and allowances of officers. The increase under *Education* was distributed

under the several heads, due to officers on special duty, reorganization of the Educational service and payment of grain compensation allowance and large payments of grants-in-aid to local colleges and schools, primary schools and towards educational buildings. The increase under *Medical* was due to larger grants to hospitals, and dispensaries, and to the appointment of a whole-time Superintendent in the Berhampur Lunatic Asylum and to the payment of grain allowance, while that under *Political* was due to the appointment of the Political Agent of the Orissa Feudatory Estates and his establishment. The increase under *Superannuation* was due to the continued growth of expenditure in superannuation and retired allowances, while that under *Stationery and Printing* was partly for larger expenditure in Government Presses, and partly under Stationery supplied from Central stores. The failure of crops following the inundation in Bihar necessitated the starting of relief operations in Bihar, and a charge of about seven lakhs was debited under the head *Famine Relief*. The increase under *Irrigation Major Works—Working Expenses* was due chiefly to larger expenditure from the upkeep of the canals in connection with the Sone project, while the decrease under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due to the expenditure on Magra Hât Drainage project having been debited to the local accounts. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was partly under original works, viz., purchase of premises No. 4 Theatre Road as a residence for the Commissioner, Presidency Division, and for the acquisition of land required for the extension of the court compound and site of a circuit-house at Bhagalpur, and partly under repairs. The increase under *Contributions* was due to the grant to the District Board of the 24-Parganas for Magra Hât Drainage scheme.

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1906-07.]

606. The following table shows the income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1906-07 :— Balances.

Name of Fund.	Opening Balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. District Funds	33,33,160	72,08,882	1,05,42,042	75,43,688	29,98,354
2. " Road Funds ...	1,57,077	2,16,565	3,73,642	2,07,359	1,66,283
3. Inland Labour Transport Fund	......	8,549	8,549	8,549	......
4. Steam Boiler Inspection Fund ...	84,521	55,973	1,40,494	68,872	71,622
5. Village Chaukidari Funds ...	91,975	4,06,965	4,98,940	4,09,314	89,626
6. Road Patrol Funds	19,680	34,448	54,128	33,978	20,150
7. District Chaukidari Reward Funds	60,952	38,716	99,668	29,736	69,932
Total ...	37,47,365	79,70,098	1,17,17,463	83,01,496	34,15,967

607. The grants made by Government to the District Funds and District Road Funds during the year were Rs. 20,62,913 and Rs. 1,10,819, respectively. A sum of Rs. 9,10,674 being approximately equivalent to one-fourth of the revenues derived from Public Works Cess was granted as contribution to augment the revenues of District Funds, to enable them to extend their operations. The total expenditure in Bengal on account of the Inland Labour Transport Fund amounted to Rs. 21,517, of which Rs. 12,968, being the excess of payments over receipts, was debited to Assam. The post of the Travelling Superintendent of Emigration, Central Provinces and Bengal, was abolished, and nothing was debited to the Central Provinces. Grants and changes.

The District Post Fund was abolished from the beginning of the year and its balance was transferred to Imperial. The Patwari Fund also was abolished, and its deficit balance was adjusted by a contribution from Provincial revenues. The Village Chaukidari and Road Patrol Funds exist only in Chota Nagpur.

The transactions of the Excluded Local Funds were as follows :—

Name of Fund.	Opening Balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Police Funds—					
Railway Police Clothing ...	4,835	5,477	10,312	3,030	7,282
Foundling Asylum	9	3,418	3,427	3,417	10
Fire-brigade	17,335	1,00,437	1,17,772	97,736	20,036
Total ...	22,179	1,09,332	1,31,511	1,04,183	27,328
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta) ...	1,71,352	96,561	2,67,913	2,55,284	12,629
Orissa Ports	7,471	15,167	22,638	14,300	8,338
Total ...	1,78,823	1,11,728	2,90,551	2,69,584	20,967
Education Funds—					
Hindu College	577	4,752	5,329	4,702	627
Durga Charan Laha's Scholarship ...	......	2,656	2,656	2,656	......
Jagiara	34	200	234	205	29
Total ...	611	7,608	8,219	7,563	656
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Imambara Hospital ...	6,029	1,619	7,648	7,178	470
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	29,106	83,559	1,12,665	44,434	68,231
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	2,295	4,246	6,541	6,372	169
Ram Lall Mukerjee's Endowment	7,356	1,936	9,292	6,816	2,476
Annochuttra	4,377	13,126	17,503	11,213	6,290
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	1,549	1,044	2,593	202	2,391
Joy Gobinda Laha's Fund ...	3,990	4,466	8,456	3,990	4,466
Dispensary Funds—					
Sambalpur	636	7,357	7,993	7,812	181
Bargarh	408	960	1,368	955	413
Jharsagra	......	206	206	197	9
Total ...	55,746	1,18,519	1,74,265	89,169	85,096
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	3,330	6,301	9,631	9,462	169
Khondmal Road	46,480	76,610	1,23,090	78,238	44,852
Total ...	49,810	82,911	1,32,721	87,700	45,021
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Kolhan Market Fund	518	2,614	3,132	1,246	1,886
Total ...	518	2,614	3,132	1,246	1,886
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Muhammadan Burial Board ..	1,441	1,989	3,430	1,868	1,562
Zoological Gardens	24,135	59,812	83,947	60,109	23,838
Christian Burial Board ...	9,624	17,160	26,784	15,777	11,007
Mohsin Endowment	18,566	1,11,401	1,29,967	1,00,451	29,516
Total ...	53,766	1,90,362	2,44,128	1,78,205	65,923
Cantonment Funds—					
Cuttack Cantonment	12,481	10,818	23,299	9,222	14,077
Alipur "	293	2,717	3,010	2,727	283
Dum-Dum "	4,146	17,772	21,918	19,174	2,744
Barrackpore "	10,728	42,446	53,174	40,081	13,093
Jallapahar "	395	6,147	6,542	6,231	311
Dorunda "	1,945	3,159	5,104	2,256	2,848
Dinapore "	454	29,149	29,603	28,100	1,503
Lebong "	1,606	5,138	6,744	6,650	94
Total ...	32,048	1,17,346	1,49,394	1,14,441	34,953
Cantonment Hospital Fund—					
Barrackpore	......	3,636	3,636	3,599	37
Dum-Dum	8	2,762	2,770	2,765	5
Dinapur	36	3,967	4,003	4,003	......
Jallapahar	632	3,298	3,930	3,634	296
Total ...	676	13,663	14,339	14,001	338
Grand Total ...	3,94,177	7,54,083	11,48,260	8,66,092	2,82,168

Changes.

608. The Police Superannuation Fund was abolished, and the Police Remount Fund (Sambalpur) had neither balance nor transactions during the year. Out of the balance of the Hospital Port Dues Fund (Calcutta), Rs. 1,83,000 was invested in Port Trust Debentures. The Deoghur Lodging-house Fund obtained

a loan of Rs. 8,000 for the construction of a pilgrim-shed. The expenditure from the Ram Lal Mukerjee's Fund represents the charges incurred for the alleviation of distress owing to floods in the Bihar and the Presidency Divisions. Rupees 3,500 was added to the invested capital of the Joy Gobinda Laha's Fund. A new Dispensary Fund at Jharsagra, in the district of Sambalpur, was opened in June 1906. The receipts of the Khondmal Road Fund include grants of Rs. 2,338, being equivalent to the plough-tax collections for 1905-06, and of Rs. 1,400 for the construction of the Phulbari Circular Road. The fund was relieved of the postal contribution of Rs. 584 during the year for the maintenance of the Harbhanga-Bissipara Line.

The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,989 from Provincial Revenues. The transactions on account of Muhammadan education appertaining to the transferred districts of Eastern Bengal are now recorded under the separate Mohsin Fund account kept in the new Province, a lump grant of Rs. 30,000 from the Bengal Fund being made to it for the purpose. The cantonment at Cuttack having been abandoned, the fund at the place has been abolished and its balance transferred to Provincial Revenues. The following grants were received by Cantonment Fund from the Military Department:—For conservancy—Dinapore Rs. 55 and Jalapahar Rs. 5,810; for hospitals and dispensaries—Dinapore Rs. 3,560, and for special incinerator, Lebong, Rs. 2,619. An additional Cantonment Hospital Fund was created at Barrackpore.

Road and Public Works Cess.

[Report on the operations of the Road and Public Works Cess Departments for 1906-07.]

609. These cesses were levied as usual at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the assessed value in the 30 districts to which the Act applied. It is not in force in Angul, the Khond Mahals or Sambalpur. *Rate at which levied.*

610. The total valuation for purposes of cess-assessment was Rs. 12,67,31,262. The current land-revenue demand for the same 30 districts was Rs. 2,83,70,062 and the current demand for cesses was Rs. 70,11,936. *Demand.*

611. The total demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 82,82,702 and the total collections Rs. 69,56,766, leaving a total outstanding balance of Rs. 13,48,585. The remissions amounted to Rs. 1,12,743, and were chiefly due to revaluations under section 13, Cess Act; revision of the annual assessments on coal-mines; reduction of demands in objections on appeal; erroneous or double assessment, and diluvion. *Realizations.*

612. The number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 78,609, against 85,919 in the previous year. The total number of cases disposed of was 1,681 in excess of the total number of new cases instituted. *Certificate Procedure cases.*

613. In 6,096 cases objections were filed and 5,998 were disposed of. The corresponding figures for last year were 6,052 and 5,890. In 175 cases the amount claimed was reduced, and in 770 cases the certificates were cancelled for various causes. *Objections.*

614. In 19,306 cases the arrears were paid up on the issue of notices. In 34,169, on the issue of notices for sale of the moveable properties of the defaulters and in 15,182 on the issue of notices for sale of their immoveable properties. *Stages of satisfaction.*

615. Revaluations on a more or less extensive scale were in progress in 17 districts. In Birbhum the district revaluation was completed, the result being an increase of Rs. 8,090 over the former demand. In Bankura and Palamau the general revaluations are now approaching completion. *Valuations.*

616. It has been found inconvenient that there is no provision empowering the Collector to reject or revise incorrect returns filed by proprietors of estates under Part II except when action was taken under section 22 after a conviction under section 94; also that there is no provision enabling a cess-revaluation to be co-ordinated with the preparation of a record-of-rights. A draft Bill embodying these and other changes in the present law is under consideration. *General.*

Municipal Revenue.

See Chapter III—"Municipal Administration."

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1906. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

617. The rainfall during the monsoon period was scanty and irregular throughout the greater part of the Province. In Bihar, however, and more particularly in the district of Darbhanga, there were heavy floods which destroyed a great part of the *bhadoi* crops. In the cold-season months of January and February the rainfall in most districts was considerably in excess of the normal. The exceptional climatic conditions of the year are reflected in the record of vital statistics.

Births and deaths.

618. Fewer births were recorded than last year, the ratio per mille (excluding the districts of Angul and Sambalpur) being 37·22, as compared with 39·59, the average for the five preceding years. The reduced birth-rate was due to the general unhealthiness of the year 1905, and to the prolonged continuance of high prices of food-grains which, by lowering the vitality of the people, acted as a check to the growth of population. The total number of deaths registered was 1,823,243, or 36·08 per mille against 34·15, the quinquennial average. Excluding Sambalpur, for which the figures for 1905 are not given, the total mortality was 1,807,930 against 1,922,369 in 1905, and 1,703,970, the average of the preceding five years. The highest mortality was returned from Purnea, where there were severe outbreaks of fever and cholera; the lowest mortality was as usual reported from Chota Nagpur. In accordance with the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, the accuracy of the vital statistics are at present being tested in certain parts of the Burdwan district. The results so far obtained show that little or no reliance can in most cases be placed on the reports submitted as to the cause of death, but the enquiries are not yet sufficiently advanced to justify any definite opinion being pronounced.

Infant mortality.

619. The total infant mortality in the Province, though still lamentably high, was slightly lower than that of the previous year. The highest percentage of deaths among infants was as usual recorded in Calcutta. Leaflets in the vernacular containing simple instructions regarding the feeding and rearing of infants, and prescribing the diet of Indian mothers after child-birth, were again distributed to the general public through the subordinate vaccination inspecting staff. But it will probably be many years before any direct result can be attributed to this measure.

Cholera.

620. The extensive prevalence of cholera during the year contributed in a marked degree towards the general mortality. The number of deaths registered from cholera was 192,596, including 61 in Sambalpur, against 146,339 during the preceding year, and 116,490, the average of the five years 1901-1905, the respective ratios being 3·81, 2·93 and 2·33 per mille. The mortality from cholera was the highest ever recorded, and was undoubtedly due to the unhealthy climatic conditions prevailing during the year. The districts most heavily attacked were Purnea, Bhagalpur, Champaran and Khulna. Ranchi, as usual, was practically unvisited by the disease, and doubtless owned its immunity to the fact that the population is scattered over a large area, and to the good natural drainage existing in most parts of this district.

Fever.

621. The deaths from fever represented 65·29 per cent. of the total deaths recorded in the Province from all causes. But, as the investigations as to the accuracy of the vital statistics tend to show, a large number of the deaths reported as due to fever are not really to be attributed to that cause. The total number of deaths recorded, including the district of Sambalpur, was 1,132,579, representing a ratio of 22·41 per mille. The districts which suffered most were Purnea, Nadia, Darjeeling, Birbhum, and

Bhagalpur, which recorded a mortality of 35·97, 30·68, 30·48, 39·89 and 28·92 per mille, respectively. Jessore suffered less from fever during the year under report, the recorded mortality being 27·38, against 33·02 per mille in the previous year; while Calcutta and Puri returned the smallest death-rates from this cause, viz., 4·58 and 7·27 per mille, respectively. Anti-malarial operations were carried out at Ranaghat, Berhampore, Jagadispore and Moheshpur, but it cannot be said that much advantage has resulted from them. The operations at Berhampore and Mohespur have been abandoned on the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner, while those at Ranaghat and Jagadispur will be continued for a further period. Steps are being taken to collect accurate statistics as to the prevalence of fever in places where drainage works are either in progress or about to be undertaken, showing the death-rate from this cause both before and after the execution of the drainage works; the results will demonstrate whether any marked improvement in the death-rate from malaria is produced by them. The Committee appointed by Government to enquire into the causes of malaria in the districts of the Presidency Division and to ascertain how far it is due to obstructed drainage and whether the evil can be remedied completed their enquiries in March last; their report has been dealt with since the close of the year under report. The Committee came to the conclusion that not more than one-third of the deaths put down under the head "Fever" are correctly attributable to malarial fever. The lines along which future investigations should be conducted have been laid down, and it is hoped that some substantial improvement will be effected. Even if the diagnosis of the cause of death be not scientifically accurate, the fact remains that over a million and a quarter persons died last year from what may be fairly described as preventible causes.

622. The number of deaths recorded was 47,069, against 45,260 in the previous year, the corresponding ratios being ·94 and ·90 per mille, respectively. The largest number of deaths occurred in January and the smallest in June. Orissa returned the very high death-rate of 3·20 per mille from these causes. A special enquiry into the cause of the high mortality returned from this Division, which was made during the year, showed that it was to some extent due to the bad water-supply, but mainly to the insanitary habits of the people. It is, however, not improbable that the high figures returned from these districts are, to some extent, due to incorrectness in reporting. Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

623. The total number of deaths reported from these causes, excluding Sambalpur, was 42,170, or ·24 per mille, as compared with 11,189 or ·22 in 1905 and 8,325 or ·16 per mille in 1904. In Sambalpur the mortality was 655, or 1·02 per mille. The mortality was, as is natural, heavier in towns than in rural areas, the largest number of deaths, 4,384, being registered in Calcutta, where the persistent increase of the death-rate from this cause is most noticeable. The returns from the districts cannot, however, be strictly relied upon, as the reporting agency is not sufficiently intelligent to be able to discriminate with any degree of accuracy between cases of respiratory disease and of fever. Respiratory diseases.

624. There has been an increase in the expenditure on Conservancy, Treatment of the sick and Markets and Slaughter-houses; and a small decrease under the headings "Drainage and Water-supply". There is a general improvement all round in conservancy arrangements. It must be observed that the statistics at present available, showing the relative health of certain towns before and after the execution of large sanitary schemes, such as drainage and water-supply, are far from encouraging. Steps are being taken to collect figures as accurately as possible in various Municipalities and rural areas where drainage schemes are in progress or are contemplated. Municipal Sanitary expenditure.

625. The chief subjects dealt with during the year were:— The Sanitary Board.

(i) Rules for the better preparation of drainage and water-supply projects.

(ii) Employment of a permanent staff of competent men to prepare and assist in the preparation of sanitary schemes.

(iii) Preparation of a drainage scheme for Berhampore Municipality.

(iv) Purification of the Darjeeling water-supply by the ozone process.

Several preliminary and detailed estimates for drainage and water-supply schemes were prepared. The water-works at Arrah, Berhampore, Bhagalpur, Burdwan, Darjeeling and Howrah were inspected.

Plague.

General.

626. The total deaths reported as due to plague are 59,619, against last year's record figure, 126,084. As usual, the Patna Division suffered most.

The period of greatest prevalence was from January to April, the climax being reached in the month of March when 19,855 deaths were reported. Only nine districts, including Sambalpur, were entirely free from the disease, while in Purnea there was only one death. Only 1,777 inoculations were performed against 1,544 in the preceding year, and only one case of death from plague among those inoculated was reported. As no less than 1,146 of the total number of inoculations were among the prisoners in the Gaya Jail, it is obvious that inoculation is even now regarded with marked disfavour by the people of this Province. The village of Jagadispur, in Shahabad, where the work of rat extermination was carried on in a thorough and systematic manner, enjoyed complete immunity from the disease, although it prevailed with considerable severity in the immediate neighbourhood. This experiment has proved a distinct success, and has afforded an excellent object-lesson of the advantages of a systematic campaign against rats.

Plague in Calcutta.

627. In Calcutta the annual attack of plague was not of a very serious character. The attempt to exterminate rats, which was begun in Calcutta long before any other places took it up, was continued. With a reward of two annas for each live rat brought in, over one lakh were produced and destroyed. About 45,000 dead rats were collected from the streets by the Conservancy Department. Unfortunately no adequate powers to supervise grain godowns, where rats do most congregate, or to enforce that they are maintained rat-proof and free from rats, are enjoyed by the Corporation. An attempt to popularize inoculation among the Corporation employés was a failure, in spite of the reward of eight annas held out to those who were prepared to submit to the operation. Rat poison is supplied free of charge by the Corporation Health Department on application.

Plague Observation Camps.

628. An examination of railway passengers is now only made in this province at Siliguri. Over 68,000 travellers were examined and only one person was detained.

Port Precautions.

629. No case of plague was detected amongst the crew or passengers of any outward-bound or inward-bound vessel. Two cases of plague occurred on a ship in the docks, and it and its crew and their clothing were thoroughly disinfected.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies for the year 1906. Statistics of British India, Part V—Administrative and General.]

Administrative measures.

630. No important administrative measures were adopted by this Government during the year under review. An addition was made to Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules framed under Act XXI of 1883, empowering Subdivisional Magistrates to grant certificates of character and identity to recruiters, and Rule 133 was amended in order to provide that unmarried women should be so located as to separate them from the quarters of the single men and the crew on board emigrant vessels. The Government of Fiji passed two ordinances amending the law relating to Indian immigrants. The most important of these lays down that in future the right of an immigrant to a free return passage to India shall be forfeited, unless it is exercised within two years from the date when it accrues. Several minor alterations were also made in the laws relating to Indian immigrants in Natal and Mauritius.

Depots and despatch of labour.

631. Seven emigration agencies were at work during the year, six representing the British Colonies and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. There was a general increase in the demand and supply of labour for the Colonies,

the total number of labourers requisitioned and despatched during the year amounting to 13,276 and 13,362 as against 8,157 and 8,933 respectively in 1905. In all 23,336 emigrants, or 8,040 more than in the previous year, were registered in 1906. This increase is attributed to the continuance of scarcity and the consequent rise in the prices of food-grains in the recruiting districts. As in previous years, recruitment was most vigorous in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, from which 74·99 per cent. of the emigrants came: the districts of Fyzabad, Basti and Cawnpore furnished the largest numbers.

632. Of the 23,575 emigrants admitted into the sub-depôts, 2,862 were rejected by the medical officers in the recruiting districts as unfit to emigrate. Twenty thousand two hundred and thirty-three emigrants arrived at Calcutta and were accommodated in the depôts at Garden Reach. This number was reduced by rejections, releases and other causes to 14,827, of whom only 14,035 were sent to the Colonies during the year, the remainder (792) being left for subsequent despatch. The figures show an increase over those for 1904 and 1905, when 7,451 and 12,651 persons respectively were admitted into the depôts and 7,135 and 9,322 embarked for the Colonies. The largest number (3,866) of emigrants was received by Natal and the smallest (619) by Mauritius. Health and physical fitness.

Though the sanitary arrangements of the depôts were satisfactory, the amount of sickness and mortality was higher than in 1905; and this is ascribed to the general unhealthness of the year.

633. During the year under review 5,718 immigrants returned from the Colonies with savings amounting to Rs. 9,12,277-0-6, the average for each immigrant being Rs. 159-8-8 as compared with Rs. 171-13-4 a head in the preceding years. On the other hand, as many as 2,413 emigrants, or 18·73 per cent. of the total number of returned emigrants, came back with no savings at all. As in previous years, the immigrants in Natal sent the largest remittances by money-orders, the total amount so sent being over 14 lakhs. Returned Immigrants and savings.

634. The accounts of the Emigration Fund show that the year closed with a balance of Rs. 14,688-11-3. This surplus is chiefly due to the increase of receipts on account of the larger number of emigrants embarked during the year. Emigration Fund.

State-aided Emigration to Burma.

635. At the instance of the Government of Burma, it has been decided to discontinue from April 1907 the grant hitherto given in aid of emigration to Burma since 1890. At first the grant was made from Imperial funds. In 1893 it was made a charge on Provincial Revenues. In 1901 the Government of Burma agreed to pay a share of the cost. Practically all the emigration was from Shahabad district, where Messrs. Thomson and Milne of Behea and Babu Hariher Prasad Singh of Dumraon stimulated it, to aid in the development of their grants of waste land in Burma. In its inception the scheme was designed to teach the Bihari raiyat that emigration was a good thing. The Burma Government has now decided that there is no further need to encourage Bihari immigration, and the promotors of the scheme in Shahabad have expressed their opinion that there is a tendency towards a scarcity of labour in that locality. In this, the last year of the operation of the scheme, 235 adults and 60 children were given assisted passages to Burma. Former settlers are reported to be prosperous. State-aided Emigration.

Inland Emigration.

[Reports on Inland Emigration under Act VI of 1901 for the year ending the 30th June 1907, submitted by the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum, Singhbhum and Sambalpur.]

636. No administrative changes of special importance took place during the year under review; but since the close of the year so-called "free" recruiting under section 92 of Act VI of 1901 has been prohibited throughout the Province; and recruiting by contractors under Chapter III of the Act has been closed as regards the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions. These changes are the Administration.

direct outcome of the report of the Assam Labour Committee of 1906. During the year Purulia was abolished as a halting place for emigrants from the Ranchi district. The stamp duty on labour contracts was also reduced from 8 annas to 1 anna.

Variation in number of emigrants.

637. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited from Bengal, Madras and the Central Provinces, who embarked at Goalundo for the labour districts during the year under review, was 24,503, against 39,949 in the previous year. The falling off is attributed to the greater prosperity of the year as well as to the constantly increasing demand for the labour in other directions than the tea-gardens. The total number of emigrants registered in Bengal under Chapters III and IV of the Act was 2,347 and 3,817 respectively, compared with 3,743 and 6,339 in 1905-06, while 1,324 emigrants against 1,193 were recruited by specially employed sardars. The number of emigrants reported to have been recruited under the "free" system rose to 13,297 compared with 13,099 in the previous year. Thus while recruitment by garden-sardars fell off by 39 per cent. and that by licensed contractors by 37 per cent., there was an actual increase in the number of emigrants recruited by unlicensed free agencies. It is notorious that the greater number of these emigrants, though nominally recruited in the districts of Burdwan and Midnapur, in fact come from districts in which free recruiting is prohibited; and the fact that the free system is fertile of abuses is generally recognized. The success which this system was attaining at the expense of the agencies licensed and regulated under the Act shows that its abolition was justified and has been ordered none too soon.

The system of recruitment by specially employed sardars was not largely resorted to; and no opinion can be expressed as to its working.

Abuses.

638. Grave abuses are reported to have arisen in the Ranchi and Sambalpur districts owing to the fact that Act VI of 1901 does not apply to the Native States. Emigrants from those states can therefore be despatched to the labour districts without registration, and there is every reason to believe that many emigrants from British India are illegally despatched to Assam as having been recruited in the Native States. This question is receiving the attention of Government.

Inland Transport Fund.

639. There was no improvement in the financial position of the Inland Labour Transport Fund during the year under review, the receipts being Rs. 8,277 and the expenditure Rs. 20,902. There was a considerable falling off in receipts owing to the diminution in the number of emigrants registered.

Criminal cases.

640. The number of criminal cases in connection with emigration during the year was 149 as compared with 181 in 1906, the number of persons convicted being 60 as against 131. It is hoped that these figures point to a real decrease in illegalities connected with recruitment. There is reason to fear, however, that abuses are still common. The Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi, in particular, reports that illegal recruitment by unlicensed persons shows no sign of declining. He suggests, however, that the statistics are affected by the fact that the special measures taken to detect offenders have caused most of the cases of malpractice to be brought to light, and that few, if any, of such cases now go undetected. Possibly the introduction of the reforms consequent on the recommendations of the Labour Committee will result in a marked improvement. If so, illegal and irregular practices will rapidly become less frequent and in time practically disappear.

Medical Institutions.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Notes on the Annual returns of the Charitable Dispensaries under the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta Medical Institutions for 1906. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Attendance.

641. During the year under review there was no change in the number of public institutions, which was 17. The number of patients treated was 28,136 indoor and 271,078 outdoor, against 27,836 and 268,792, respectively, in 1905. The public health of Calcutta and Howrah was better than in 1905, the

death-rates being, respectively, 35·7 and 35·09 per mille, against 37·9 and 47·13 in the previous year. The increase in the numbers treated in Calcutta hospitals in 1906 is therefore, significant, and is strong evidence of their growing popularity. The increase in the number of house-patients would have been still greater had not the accommodation at the Campbell Hospital been curtailed owing to the re-construction of the main building and to the re-arrangement of beds which caused a decrease of 1,048 patients. It may be noted here that the outdoor attendance at this hospital increased by 1,356, and a satisfactory feature is that most of this excess occurred among females. At the Police Hospitals there was an addition of 456 in-patients, there having been a larger number of sufferers from malarial fevers amongst the Suburban Police. The Medical College Hospital also had an excess of 427 patients, as the wards which were under repair in 1905 were fully available in 1906.

As regards outdoor patients, the Shama Charan Law Eye Hospital had an excess of 1,950; the Medical College Hospital proper 1,472, although the outdoor department was closed on Sundays; the Dufferin Victoria Hospital 695 and the Chitpur and Sukea's Street Dispensaries had between them an accession of 710. At the Mayo, Chandney and Ripon Street Dispensaries there was altogether a falling off of 3,058. These backward results are partially attributed to changes in the medical staff; but the explanation is not convincing.

At the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, which has been rapidly growing in popularity, there was overcrowding in the year under review. Steps are being taken to extend the hospital for which a site has been acquired.

The arrangement of beds in three rows in the different wards at the Campbell Hospital was faulty, and made it difficult to keep the wards clean and free from bad odour. A re-arrangement has now been made which had the effect of reducing the number of available beds, but of greatly improving the comfort, cleanliness and sanitary condition of the wards.

642. Of diseases of the zymotic group, small-pox prevailed in the epidemic form in Calcutta, and caused 2,905 deaths against 272 in 1905. The numbers treated in hospitals, including the Bechoo Lall Charitable Dispensary, also rose from 119 in 1905 to 851 in 1906. Plague was less frequent in the year under review, there having been 2,606 deaths against 7,372 in 1905. Admissions to hospitals also showed a corresponding decline. There were 851 patients treated for cholera against 679 in 1905, the increase being in agreement with the mortuary statistics for 1906. Small-pox Epidemic. Plague.

643. For tubercular diseases 2,485 patients were treated against 2,290 in 1905. It is impossible to estimate even approximately the prevalence of this disease in Calcutta; there is reason to believe that it prevails to a greater extent than is generally supposed. Tuberculosis.

644. The total income of all the institutions, excluding the Police Hospital and the Dockyard Dispensary, increased by Rs. 2,68,456, the figures being Rs. 14,48,158 against Rs. 11,79,702 in 1905. The amount contributed by Government was Rs. 9,34,743, or 68·04 per cent., against Rs. 8,42,294, or 73·97 per cent. in the previous year. A special donation of Rs. 1,00,000 was received through His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, viz., Rs. 90,000 to the Medical College Hospital, and Rs. 10,000 to the Dufferin Victoria Hospital. In the former, various improvements have been effected with this sum. These will be detailed in the next report of this Department. In the latter, the amount has been credited to the Building Fund. Unfortunately no increase has been noted in general private liberality towards the sick poor, notwithstanding many efforts that have been made to move the Calcutta native public in this direction. Income and Expenditure.

The total expenditure, excluding the amount invested, was Rs. 13,72,119 against Rs. 10,99,831. This increase is mainly due to larger expenditure on buildings, viz., Rs. 5,89,287, against Rs. 3,88,522 in 1905.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES.

645. The number of dispensaries at work on 1st January 1906 was 560; 27 were opened during the year, while nine were closed, the net result being Number of dispensaries.

an addition of 18 dispensaries at the end of the year. The nine dispensaries (six Railway and three private non-aided) closed were not under Government supervision.

Indoor Patients.

646. The total number of indoor patients increased from 57,361 in 1905 to 61,617 in 1906. Nearly the whole of this increase occurred in the old dispensaries and was fairly general, having been shared by 22 districts. Although the health of the general population was, on the whole, better than in 1905, the advance in the amount of hospital relief is satisfactory, and forcibly testifies to the growing popularity of the dispensaries. In this respect the individuality of medical officers plays an important part.

Among in-patients treated in dispensaries the mortality was 10·02, against 10·81 per cent. in 1905.

Outdoor relief.

647. The outdoor medical relief work of the dispensaries also expanded largely during the year, the numbers treated having been 3,874,079 against 3,672,114 in 1905. A portion of this increase, 69,266, represents the work of the new dispensaries. The result is mainly due to the operation of the general cause mentioned above, and is creditable to all concerned. The increase occurred in all divisions of the Province. According to districts, 26 had a share in it, while in seven there was a falling off.

Counting the total number of patients treated and the numbers treated by Travelling Railway Hospital Assistants and in the temporary hospitals, as well as the numbers treated in the Calcutta Medical Institutions, medical relief reached 8·36 per cent. of the population, against 7·95 in 1905. The United Provinces of Agra and Oudh had a percentage of 9·55 in 1906.

Income.

648. The total income was Rs. 12,17,765, against Rs. 11,09,065 in 1905. Government contributed Rs. 1,84,499, or 15·15 per cent., against Rs. 2,18,296 and 19·67 per cent., respectively, in 1905 in which year, besides special grants for equipment, larger contributions were given for new buildings. For this latter purpose Government gave liberal support also in 1906, notable instances being the grant of Rs. 19,900 to the Balasore Central Hospital, Rs. 15,000 to the Motihari Dispensary, Rs. 14,000 to the Walsh Hospital, Serampore, and Rs. 5,000 to the Berhampore Hospital. In many cases grants were given in 1906 by Divisional Commissioners towards the improvement of dispensaries from funds at their disposal.

Municipal payments amounted to Rs. 1,99,444, against Rs. 1,89,696 in 1905. District Boards contributed Rs. 2,92,231, or 23·99 per cent., against Rs. 1,95,694 and 17·64 per cent. in 1905. It is very satisfactory to note the increasing interest and liberality shown by District Boards and many municipalities towards hospitals within recent years. With the aid of the District Officers, who evince interest in medical work, Civil Surgeons who are energetic are enable to effect great improvements, and many of the district head-quarters are now provided with substantial hospitals of a modern type, and several of the other buildings are improved beyond recognition.

Expenditure.

649. The total expenditure was Rs. 8,98,847, against Rs. 8,69,075 in 1905, or, excluding investments, Rs. 8,90,387 and Rs. 8,29,085, the increase being chiefly due to construction of new buildings, to a rise in the price of food-grains, to purchase of new surgical instruments and appliances, and miscellaneous articles too numerous to detail as well as to the establishment of new dispensaries. The amount spent on European and bazar medicines was Rs. 1,67,424, against Rs. 1,58,043 in 1905. The amount spent on febrifuges was Rs. 15,349, against Rs. 14,880 in 1905. Diet cost Rs. 71,523, against Rs. 59,948 in 1905. The number of patients treated was larger than in 1905. The total number of in-patients who paid for their own food was 4,493, or 12·33 per cent., against 4,366, or 13·08 per cent. in 1905.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, 1906.]

Number of admissions.

650. The total number of admissions was 494, of whom 344 were patients and 150 relatives and friends. The former shows an increase of 39 and the latter a reduction of 5 as compared with the previous year. Since 1901 there has been an apparent tendency to decrease in the number of admissions.

It was considered that this might be due to the competition of other hill stations now accessible by rail. The rise, however, during the year under review does not support this opinion. The rise and fall in admissions is due partly to accidental circumstances, and in a measure to the repute of the Institution. There is reason to believe that in the past few years there were general complaints in respect of dieting and discomfort. The management of the Steward's Department was far from satisfactory, and his services have been dispensed with.

Funds.

651. Although the number of admissions increased by 34, receipts show a falling off of Rs. 6,120. This was in all classes except the intermediate class. The decrease was most marked in the 2nd class in which the reduction was Rs. 6,151-8, due to the average period of stay of this class of patients being shorter than in 1905. The year's working shows a deficit of Rs. 7,732-7-11, against Rs. 3,481-6-11 in 1905 and surplus of Rs. 1,097-7-7 in 1904. With a view to improve the financial condition, steps have been taken to increase the income of the Institution by making certain additional charges for operations and for occupants of the first, intermediate and 2nd class accommodations while they remain under treatment, also by increasing the charges for confinement cases. It remains to be seen how far this new system will avert the present financial crisis. The income from subscriptions remains the same as in the last few years, and there is no tendency to improvement in this respect. A special grant was made by Government to cover current expenses in the early part of 1907.

Free Beds.

652. As usual four free beds were maintained for the benefit of convalescent patients from the Medical College and General Hospitals, Calcutta; they were occupied throughout the season. The cost, reckoning them as third class, was Rs. 1,104.

Two free cots were maintained throughout the season—one by the Theo-Beryl Fund and one by the Children's Ministering League.

In addition to these free beds Rs. 500 is allotted by the Committee for free beds to be expended at the discretion of the Superintendent. One free bed was utilized by the Superintendent during the year at a cost of Rs. 106.

The rule whereby Commercial Firms, Banks, etc., can obtain a reduction in the rates charged for their European Assistants if admitted to the Sanitarium was not taken advantage of.

The donations and subscriptions amounted to Rs. 350 only, whereas Rs. 1,270 was expended on free beds.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for 1906. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Administrative changes.

653. The most important change which took place in the administration asylums in this Province was the appointment of a separate Medical Officer as Superintendent of the Berhampore combined Asylum, Major C. J. Robertson-Milne, I.M.S., took charge of the institution on the 29th October 1906. He was at first employed on special duty in inspecting the existing asylums and the site and designs already drawn up of the proposed Native Central Asylum at Ranchi, with a view to the final preparation and adoption of suitable plans for the new buildings at that place, with the result that fresh plans have been prepared and will soon be submitted for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Numbers.

654. The number of lunatics on 1st January 1906 was 843; 211 were admitted during the year (including 23 re-admissions), 133 were discharged, while death claimed 85, and 836 remained in the asylums at the end of the year, against 844 in 1905. The proportion per cent. of criminal lunatics to the total population on the 31st December of each year was 47·96 and 47·51 respectively.

Although there was no increase in the total asylum population, there was some want of room at Bhowanipur. The male division at Patna was also overcrowded during the year under review. This necessitated the transfer of six lunatics from the former and 25 from Patna to Berhampore.

At Patna one of the work-sheds is being converted into a sleeping barrack, which will add to the capacity of the asylum.

Admissions.

655. Admissions were fewer by 7, being 188 against 195 in 1905. The numbers sent to Berhampore from Calcutta and the 24-Parganas again show a decrease, being 71 against 84 in 1905. The number re-admitted showed little variation—23 against 24 in 1905. Most of them were, as usual, criminal lunatics returned to the asylums after trial. Five were received back from jails, having had a relapse, and in two other instances the lunatics were re-admitted shortly after their discharge because their relatives refused to take charge of them. The non-criminal lunatics were re-admitted after long intervals.

Discharges.

656. The number discharged from the asylum was 133, against 139 in 1905. There was a large decrease at Berhampore, owing to the accumulation of chronic cases. The percentage of recoveries on total daily average strength was 10·76, against 9·91 in the previous year. The result at Berhampore was somewhat affected for the reason stated above. The number cured at Patna was 29 against 21 in 1905, which is satisfactory.

Sickness.

657. The total number of admissions to hospitals was 850, against 576 in 1905. The major portion of the increase took place at Berhampore (including Cuttack), where the admissions went up from 362 in 1905 to 681 in 1906. This is attributed to the strict observance of the rule throughout the year of placing on the sick list all cases, however trivial their complaints. The health statistics of the local jail show that the prisoners also suffered more in 1906. In the asylum there were 216 admissions from fevers with no deaths, against 94 and 3, respectively, in 1905. Phthisis gave 28 admissions against 31 in 1905. Seventy patients were treated for dysentery with 15 deaths against 57 and 14, respectively, in the previous year. Bowel-complaints and tuberculosis are the two diseases, beyond all others, to which insanes are everywhere liable. Both are filth diseases and spread by filthy habits. In this connection it may be noted that it sometimes happens that lunatics drink filthy water lodging in the depressions in the old flag pavements. The bad system of drainage requires to be remodelled as soon as possible. Proposals for its improvement have already been sanctioned, and a more extended scheme is now under consideration. In view of the ultimate closing of the asylum, heavy expenditure is to be avoided, but better drainage is absolutely necessary. At Patna the admissions were fewer, being 119 against 170 in 1905. There was a marked falling off in the number of cases treated for bowel-complaints and fevers. This is stated to be due to the exercise of greater care in the matter of food, to the issue of prophylactic quinine and to the systematic examination of all cases treated for worms and their eggs.

Total death-rate.

658. The total death-rate on the daily average strength was 10·27 per cent., against 9·19 in 1905. The rate of mortality for 1906 in the asylums in the United Provinces, the Punjab, Madras, Bombay, Burma and in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam was 10·69, 9·43, 11·87, 6·6, 6·74 and 6·16 per cent. respectively. The principal feature of the mortality in Bengal Asylums is the large number of deaths which occurred from tubercle of the lungs at Berhampore, viz., 21, against 14 in 1905. Special attention is being given to the better care, treatment and diet of the afflicted. It has been decided to make better arrangements for the segregation of males and females suffering from tuberculosis in special blocks, where the cardinal principles of the open air method of treatment can be applied. Three deaths in this asylum resulted from injuries. The mortality in the other asylums does not call for special notice.

Finance.

659. The total amount spent for the upkeep of the three asylums (2 for Natives and 1 for Europeans) was Rs. 1,21,671-6-8 against Rs. 1,15,408-15-9 in 1905. The item of expenditure, which showed the largest increase was diet the cost being Rs. 51,590 against Rs. 39,911 in the previous year, and the cost per head Rs. 62-4-3 and Rs. 47-10-9, respectively. This is attributable to the abnormal rise in the price of food-grains and to the improvement in the diet scale at Patna and Bhawanipur. In the latter there was an increase of Rs. 726 in 1906 under the head of "Superintendence" due to the inclusion in the accounts of the Deputy Superintendent's and Matron's leave allowances as well as the

officiating incumbents' salary. The average cost per lunatic per annum in the native asylums was Rs. 147, against Rs. 137-14 in 1905. At Bhawanipur the cost was Rs. 399 against Rs. 287.

General Remarks.

660. The lunatics were well cared for and humanely treated, every effort being made to keep them cheerful and healthy. Rupees 611-4 were spent on amusements, which were much appreciated by the lunatics. A large number of lunatics is now concentrated at the Berhampore Asylum, the present Superintendent of which has applied himself earnestly to the task of improving the conditions of asylum life and of instructing the menial staff as to their responsibilities and attitude towards the insane—one of the principal elements of successful asylum administration.

Government sanction has now been accorded to the location at Ranchi of a Central Asylum for the reception of European and Eurasian lunatics of Northern India. The details as to the buildings are under consideration. When this is constructed the inmates of the Bhawanipur Asylum will be removed there.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, 1906.]

Important Sanitary work in Towns an

661. A total sum of Rs. 8,39,839 has been expended during the year on the following, among other works:—

	Rs.
(1) Further improvement of Rishra *busti* in Serampore	5,21
(2) Construction of the Bourdillon market in Chapra ...	19,00
(3) Acquisition of land for a Municipal market and erection of shops on it at Puri	14,25
(4) Construction of masonry drains at Howrah ...	6,58
(5) Constration of masonry drains in Gaya town, the cost being defrayed by the Lodging-house Fund	11,29
(6) Laying pipes to supply filtered water in Bhatpara	[illegible]

Experiments were made to test the purity of the effluent from septic tanks, and special rules, designed chiefly to secure that the effluent is duly chlorinated before its discharge, have been drawn up and issued as rules under the Factory Act. Wherever it appears necessary, a sample of the effluent will be analysed in the recently established laboratory of the Sanitary Department.

Special invest[illegible]

662. Special enquiries were made into the following matters among others during the year:—

(1) Filtration of the Darjeeling water-supply by sand and its purification by ozone.
(2) Detailed chemical and bacteriological examination of Hooghly water.
(3) Prevalence of dysentery and diarrhoea in certain districts.
(4) Pollution of water by jute-steeping.
(5) Prevalence of cerebro-spinal fever, enteric and other diseases at Bhagalpur.

Furthermore, a critical examination from the sanitary point of view of proposed sites for new educational buildings of importance is now made and an opinion is expressed on the suitability of the plans, especially as regards accommodation, lighting and ventilation.

Sanitary supe[r]vision at fai[rs] and festivals.

663. A special cleaning and disinfecting staff was employed at Puri before the big festivals with satisfactory results, inasmuch as over a lakh of people attended the *dol-jatra* and *rath-jatra* festivals without any epidemic outbreak of cholera. At Sonepore Fair special precautions were taken by disinfecting the wells beforehand, supervising the conservancy and guarding against pollution of the river water. Only a very few cases of cholera were reported, though upwards of 357,000 persons attended the fair. In Purnea every fair was said to be signalized by an outbreak of cholera.

Vaccination.

[Short notes on Vaccination for the year 1906-07. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Vaccination.

664. The mortality from small-pox increased very largely, the number of deaths recorded being 23,543 in 1906-1907 as compared with 12,090 in 1905-1906. In last year's resolution the unsatisfactory vaccination results in the district of Puri were specially noticed. The results now reported are even more unsatisfactory. The death-rate from this cause for the district rose from 2·84 to the abnormal figure of 4·72 per mille, and at the same time the number of successful operations performed fell from 43,808 to 40,682. A severe outbreak of small-pox occurred in the Darjeeling district during the year, and as a natural result there was a large increase in the number of operations performed. Unfortunately the lymph supplied from the Government depôt at Ghoom was found to have deteriorated, and considerable difficulty was experienced in checking the epidemic. A special enquiry was made into the causes of the failure of the lymph by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, and steps have now been taken to guard against such a contingency occurring in the future. The large decrease in the number of operations in Calcutta, 41,300, as compared with 85,287 in 1905-1906, is very noticeable. The death-rate from small-pox in Calcutta is still very high (2·09). With these exceptions the vaccination work generally compares favourably with that performed during the previous year. The total number of operations performed in the Province during the year 1906-1907 was 2,037,273, against 2,041,230 in 1905-1906. Antiseptic vaccination was introduced throughout the Province, and on the whole the results appear to have been satisfactory. The system with perchloride wool is cheap, convenient and efficient.

Administrative.

665. Steps are being taken to raise the general standard of vaccinators in each district and to make the service more attractive. Licenses will be given only after a period of training, and the better men have the prospect of rising to be Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors of Vaccination. The system of realizing vaccination fees is in an unsatisfactory condition. It appears that even when the sums have been collected by the panchayats, it is not easy to secure that they are handed over promptly to the vaccinator. The system of offering rewards for good work is looked to as likely to bring about an improvement in the financial position of vaccinators.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II,
PAGES [illegible].

Education.

[Third quinquennial review on the progress of Education in Bengal from 1901-02 to 1906-07. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

666. The review of education in Bengal for this quinquennium deals with a period of great activity and considerable progress in educational matters. The scheme for vernacular education, the reorganization of the University of Calcutta, the deliberations of the numerous Conferences that were held, the reorganization and strengthening of the Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services and the creation of the new Lower Subordinate Service are among the more striking features of the period under notice. The Resolution on the Educational Policy of the Indian Government, published in 1904, was at once a brief review of the previous history of education in India and a clear exposition of the lines along which future developments should be directed. The defects of the existing systems were generally recognized and the measures necessary to improve them were fully indicated. One of the most important steps in advance has been the serious effort to provide properly trained teachers. Out of about 8,647 teachers in secondary schools, only 1,600 have received any special training. There are about 39,500 teachers in primary schools, and out of this number only 2,201 or 5·6 per cent., are returned as "trained", and there is reason to think that over 12,000 of these teachers have not even reached the ordinary end of the "lower primary" stage, the certificate of which is given as the usual qualification for about 63 per cent. of the teachers. It is now proposed to train *gurus* also as primary teachers. This will be an undoubted improvement on the present state of things. General.

It has been found that ideals set forth in the well-known Resolution of 1901 (for the furtherance of vernacular education) have not been realized as yet; that training has not replaced mere memory work, and that the substitution of a science primer for the class reading-book has not succeeded in compelling children to think for themselves, and to draw general conclusions from observed facts. To remedy these defects, the whole syllabus of primary education has been revised during the past year, and the new syllabus will be taught with effect from 1910.

667. The arrangements for training teachers, who will hereafter teach through the medium of English, have been under consideration since 1902. The scheme then adopted was sanctioned in 1904, and it has since been subjected to expert criticism. The transfer of certain districts to the new Province necessitated some modifications of the scheme, and the institution of diplomas in teaching in the Calcutta University made it imperative to provide for harmony between the methods adopted in the training school and the requirements of the University. A further essential, namely, a proper school to practise on, has been proposed, and the complete scheme is now under consideration. Training Institutions for Teachers. (English.)

668. Two classes of teachers are required—one for the higher classes of vernacular schools and the vernacular classes of English schools; the other for primary schools generally and for the lower classes of vernacular schools. The existing arrangements for providing trained teachers for these two classes of appointments are generally unsatisfactory. Those trained in the first-grade training schools are said to have deteriorated, partly as the course of training has been cut down from three to two years, and partly as the qualifications required for entrance do not secure the proper material to work upon. Training of Teachers. (Vernacular.)

Another cause is undoubtedly the fact that those at the head of the training school have themselves absolutely no training nor experience of the proper way to train those who come for training.

To remedy these defects, the first-grade training schools at Bankipore and Calcutta are to be expanded into model training schools under Imperial Officers. Selected members of the Subordinate Educational Service will, it is proposed, be sent to England for training, so as to fit them for the subordinate posts in these model schools.

The scheme for *guru*-training establishments has also been recast. Provision has been made for the establishment of 96 new schools (one in each subdivision) for this purpose, and steps are being taken to attract suitable candidates who must at least have reached the lower primary standard of general education before entering. At present there are 111 training schools for *guru* teachers with 1,233 students attending them. But here, again, the problem arises, where are the heads of these *guru*-training schools to get their own training and experience in the art of teaching? It seems that suitable heads for them will not be available until the model schools above described have been established and are on a permanent basis.

Training of female teachers.

669. Since 1904 attempts at training female teachers for schools have been made, and at the end of the year 1906-07 there were 17 recognized training classes in operation, attended by 256 students, in Missionary establishments. This, however, is no solution of the problem of providing Hindu and Muhammadan female teachers especially for zenana work. It is undoubted that a demand for such teachers exists, but again the difficult question arises, what trained teachers are available to teach the candidates? A beginning has been made with the deputation of two Indian ladies to Europe to be trained as teachers, and it is proposed to send others, to fit them for posts in the female-teacher training colleges at Calcutta and Bankipore.

Education of Indian Females.

670. At the end of March 1907, 3 per cent. of girls of school-going age were under instruction. At the close of the previous quinquennium the figure was only 1·7 per cent. The development of female education will be rapid as soon as suitable teachers are available. The schemes for training widows and the wives of schoolmasters as teachers have had only negative results. The proposed training colleges at Calcutta and Bankipore will be started as soon as the Indian ladies deputed to Europe for training are available. The need for competent and trained teachers for the education of girls is more urgent than for that of boys.

Education of Europeans.

671. A complete reorganization of the present system has been proposed to provide an education for the European and Eurasian boys who have to make their way in India commensurate with that which they might have obtained in England.

The results of the Government Training Class at Dow Hill School (formerly at Kurseong) for European female teachers are not quite satisfactory. It is proposed to establish a separate training college at Kurseong. The attempt to train Kindergarten teachers at the Welland Memorial School, Calcutta, has been abandoned.

Education of Muhammadans.

672. During the past year there has been an increase of 9·3 per cent. in the number of Muhammadans attending school, and an increase of 23·2 per cent. during the quinquennium. Of those of school-going age, 12·34 per cent. are under instruction, but there is a great lot of leeway to be made up in the matter of higher education. Primary schools, 'maktabs,' have been given special grants to encourage them to teach special subjects. This step has been successful.

Discipline. Hostels, etc.

673. The general standard of discipline in colleges and schools in Bengal is not high. The supervision of the residences of collegiate students and the provision of hostels are subjects that have met with much attention. Experiments are being made, both in Calcutta and the mufassal, and a practicable general scheme will, it is hoped, be evolved. In Calcutta the scheme is at present worked by the University. The ideal aimed at is the creation of truly residential colleges with a proper corporate spirit.

In all Rs. 9,34,197 were expended on hostels. Over six lakhs of this amount came from fees and two lakhs and three quarters from subscriptions and endowments.

674. At present there are 25·3 per cent. of boys of school-going age undergoing instruction. There are now 33,954 primary schools attended by 907,222 boys and 46,233 girls. Numbers attending Schools.

675. The dividing line between primary and secondary schools is not very clear. English is adopted as the medium of instruction in certain schools; also there is a continuous decline in the 'middle vernacular' school with its purely vernacular education. This points to a good practical criterion, namely, the use of English as the medium. Primary.

676. There are now 1,032 "English secondary" schools and 409 "middle vernacular" schools. The former were attended by 122,937 pupils and the latter by 24,350. Secondary.

677. The revised regulations of the Calcutta University make further demands on collegiate institutions. The junior and senior scholarships have been restored to their original number and value. There are now one college and 1,354 students less than at the bcgininng of the quinquennium. The present figures are 34 arts colleges and 5,190 students. Collegiate.

678. The total expenditure on European schools in the past year was Rs. 17,77,291. Of this sum, Rs. 4,43,569 was contributed from Provincial Revenues; Rs. 5,66,213 came from private sources and Rs. 7,65,444 from fees. Financial. European Schools.

679. The total expenditure on other schools was Rs. 1,16,63,468. Of this, Provincial Revenues provided Rs. 36,67,397; fees amounted to Rs. 43,43,094; private sources contributed Rs. 23,46,101 and District and Municipal funds about twelve lakhs of rupees. Other Schools.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for the year 1906. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

680. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory Schools in 1906 was 144. This is a very noticeable increase over the figures for 1905, when the admissions amounted to 95 only. More use ought to be made of the lenient procedure permitted by the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Reformatory Schools Act. The Boards of Management examined the lists of admissions, but only 7 boys as against 9 in 1905 were released as the result of the scrutiny. There are probably other cases in which orders of discharge would have been justified. Number of boys admitted.

681. It has been ascertained from the judicial returns that 282 youthful offenders were discharged on probation under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, while 60 boys were discharged after admonition or made over to their guardians under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act. The corresponding figures for 1905 were 348 and 42 respectively. Discharges.

682. The health of the inmates of the Reformatories was very satisfactory. While the number of admissions to hospital at the Alipore School rose slightly from 56 in 1905 to 61 in 1906, the number at Hazaribagh fell from 110 to 58. The use of quinine during the rainy season led to the reduction of the number of cases of ague from 65 to 7. Health of inmates.

683. The number of punishments inflicted on boys at Alipore was 52, the same as in 1905, but the figures for Hazaribagh show a noticeable and unexplained increase from 51 to 149. Punishments and conduct.

There was no noteworthy increase or decrease in the number of marks obtained by the boys for good conduct and industry, and their average earnings were much the same as in 1905.

684. At both Reformatories considerable attention was paid to primary education, and proposals for a general improvement in it are under consideration. At Alipore 16 boys passed the Lower Primary examination as against 9 in the previous year. At Hazaribagh 23 boys reached the Upper and 17 the Lower Primary standard, the corresponding numbers for 1905 being 13 and 20. Education.

Careful attention was paid to gymnastics, drill and games at both schools, and the band at Alipore has proved a decided success.

685. At Hazaribagh agriculture is still the most important work on which the boys are employed. Out of 142 boys, 79 were taught farming and market gardening, with good results. The Director of Public Instruction, however, reports that the work requires systematising, and the supervision of the Training in Industries and Agriculture.

Director of Agriculture should remedy this defect. At Alipore instruction is given for the most part in various trades and handicrafts. Exhibits were sent to the Calcutta Industrial Exhibition; and numerous orders for the supply of articles manufactured at the school have been received during the year.

Subsequent History.

686. The figures with regard to the occupation followed by boys after release are still disappointing. Only 50 out of 161 boys released from the Alipore Reformatory during the three years preceding the year under report were found to be engaged in the industries which they had been taught at school. Out of 161 boys released from the Hazaribagh School during the same period, only 68 were employed in work in which they had been trained. Of the total number of boys released (322), no less than 55 were untraced, but 230 are reported to be leading honest lives and only 18 have been reconvicted.

In 1906 the total number of boys under license from the two schools was 72, out of which number only 4 were sent back to school for bad conduct.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library

687. There is an increase of nearly 29 per cent. in the number of publications received and catalogued in this library during the year. The total is 3,440 against 2,800. The increase is attributed more correctly to improvements in registration than to increased literary activity. In 115 cases, evasions of the law of book-registration were reported to the Inspector-General of Registration, but only in 13 cases were the books recovered. It seems that the existing system of detecting evasions is not very effective.

Out of 2,347 books received, 2,003 were new works: the rest were republications or translations. The other publications received were periodicals, 1,093 copies of 139 distinct issues.

Subjects treated of

688. The books comprise new works dealing with Biography, Art and Industry, the Drama, Fiction, History, Philosophy, Religion, Poetry and Politics.

Last year it seemed that political, social and industrial questions were those which had in that year attracted the best talent of the Province, and that the spirit of journalism had pervaded all branches of literature. During the year under review the same influences were at work, but less ephemeral, and much more solid literature has been produced. The literature of the year 1905 gave evidence of an excited and unrestrained spirit, and that of the year 1906 discloses greater and more sustained intellectual vigour, showing itself principally in the expression of desire for increased political power and industrial improvement, but also in the higher and quieter walks of literature.

Drama.

689. In the field of Drama interest centres in historical and other works written in support of the *Swadeshi* movement. In *Durgadas*, the author, Babu Dvijendra Lal Ray, employs the story of Aurangzeb's war against the Rajputs as a means of stirring his countrymen up to seek for larger political rights, while in *Mir Kasim* and *Kedar Ray (The last hero of Bengal)*, the authors, Babu Girish Chundra Ghose and Babu Anath Bandhu Bandyopadhyay, speaking on behalf of the Hindus, make overtures to the Muhammadans with the object of inducing them to make common cause against the powers that be. So too in a play entitled *Svadesa-O-Sarama Va Purnahuti*, the author, Dr. Surendra Nath Gosvami, inculcates on young men the duty of banding themselves together for the good of their country; while in several smaller dramatic works we find conservative Rajas, Nawabs and Zamindars depicted as impotent to restrain the *Swadeshi* movement, and disgraced in their attempt to do so. Thus too in

Fiction.

the sphere of Fiction, in *Fula-wali* (Flower-woman), by Babu Surendra Mohan Bhattacharyya, the boycott movement is encouraged by alleged stories of oppressions committed on the weaving classes in the time of Warren Hastings.

Poetry.

Again, in the realm of Poetry, in the work entitled *Mahavrata* (The great vow), by Babu Atula Chandra Mitra, is a collection of poems on the *Swadeshi* agitation, the Barisal affair, the National Congress and other political subjects; while in *Yamaja Bhagini Kavya Va Seraj-ud-daula Upanyasa (The poem of the twin sisters, or the story of Seraj-ud-daula)*, by Dr. Syed Abdul Hoshein, Seraj-ud-daula is portrayed in a favourable light, and the English are held up to oppro-

Politics.

brium. Finally, amongst political writings the journal *Bhandar* inculcates a *Bharatadharma* (creed of India), the object aimed at being to unify the different races of India by obliging those who adopt the creed to regard themselves as

Indians, as distinguished from residents of particular Provinces of India, and to devote themselves to the interests of the country at large while preserving their own special religious beliefs.

690. Biography has been enriched by the publication of the fourth and last volume of the life of Kesab Chandra Sen by the Rev. Gauragovinda Ray; by the lives of the two saints, Das Gosvami and Bhaskarananda, by Babus Rasik Mohan Chakravarti and Surendra Nath Mukerjee, and, finally, by a remarkable life, written in Hindi, by Babu Sivanandan Sahay, of Harischandra, who lived in the latter half of the last century and who in many of his works adopted Hindi as a medium of expression. Babu Ravindra Nath Thakur, the greatest Bengali writer of the day, has made a distinct addition to Bengali Fiction by the publication of his novel entitled *Naukadubi* (Boat-accident), a work which is distinguished for its general culture and for the masterly way in which delicate problems of every-day life are handled. Historical research is year by year attracting greater attention—a fact well illustrated by the publication during the year under review of two works entitled *Pratapaditya* (A proper Name) and *Mir Kasim*, by Babus Nikhil Nath Ray and Akhay Kumar Maitreya, respectively. The former purports to be an account, prepared after a critical sifting of old records, of Raja Pratapadditya of Jessore, who established himself as an independent ruler in Eastern Bengal and for twenty years defied the power of the Great Moghul, while the latter gives the history of Bengal from the accession of Kasim Ali Khan to his defeat at the hands of the East India Company. Biography. History.

691. Last year, coincident with great fertility in the field of periodical literature, there was comparative barrenness in that of philosophy and religion. The year under review was very rich in philosophical publications, especially in those written in Sanskrit. These latter include new editions of the aphorisms of Gotama and Kanada and of Gadadhara's well-known work on the philosophy of cognition, by Pandit Kalivara Vedantavagisa, Pandit Panchanan Tarkaratna and Pandit Loka Nath Sarma, respectively. There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of publications on abstruse philosophical subjects, for which it is probable that the spread of theosophy among educated Hindus is partly responsible. Finally, there has been an access of literary activity in the field of religious publications, of which the most notable example is an original work by the well-known Bengali critic, Babu Viresvar Pande, entitled *Dharmasastra-tattava Kartavya-Vichar* (*The Nature of religious scriptures and a discourse on duty*). The work is a defence of the Hindu religion, and an enquiry into the causes of the downfall of the Hindu races, the conclusion arrived at being that the salvation of the Hindus lies in their eschewing Western habits of luxury, following carefully the tenets of their religion, in supporting the Brahmans and in resuscitating the indigenous arts and manufactures of the country. Philosophy. Religion.

692. During the year there were instituted 36 prosecutions under this Act, against 21 in the previous year. Convictions were obtained in all cases. Act XXV of 1867.

693. The number of vernacular and anglo-vernacular papers at the close of the year was 78 against 98 last year. Of these 78, 64 are weeklies. As usual political topics furnish most of the material for these papers. The European powers in their relations to Moslem States; police reform and village police; race distinctions in Criminal Courts; various articles dealing with Educational topics; criticisms of proposed legislative measures; crime on railways; the strike on the East Indian Railway; the partition and *swadeshi*, such are the main questions treated of. Fair and honest criticism is usually wanting. Misrepresentation, coupled with manipulation and distortion of facts, seems more congenial to the spirit in which many of these journals are conducted. The Native Press.

Literary Societies
See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR [illegible], PART I.
PAGES [illegible].

694. The Calcutta Historical Society is the most important new society established during the past year. Its members make periodical excursions to places of historical interest in and near Calcutta. It is a vigorous organization. Calcutta Historical Society.

Arts and Sciences.

Commercial Education.

695. It is unnecessary to devote attention here to Law and Medical classes. In the Special Commercial Class in the Presidency College, there were 81 students on the rolls in June 1906. In April 1907 there were only 66 attending. Out of 39 candidates at the final examination, only 7, or 18 per cent., qualified for a certificate.

The evening classes did not attract many students. This is partly due to the inconvenience entailed by having the course far away from the commercial quarter. The classes have now been removed from the Presidency College to Bow Bazar, where they are much more accessible. A high standard of answering is insisted on to create a good tradition, and to guarantee as far as possible the efficiency of the holders of certificates.

On the whole, neither these classes nor the C course, adopted in some high schools as an alternative, have proved very popular so far. They do not lead to Government employment, which is the career still most in favour.

Sibpur College.

696. There were 366 students of all classes at this College at the end of March 1907. Judged by the B. E. and F. E. examinations, the training given is distinctly good, as far more successes were gained than during the previous year. The good practical training given is evinced by the erection of an electric installation, the construction of an 80-foot launch and two motor-boats by the students of the College.

The health of the students is very bad: the number of cases of malaria treated was 1,142 in 1904-05, 1,182 in 1905-06, and 1,303 in the past year. It is under contemplation to remove the College to Ranchi.

The Agricultural classes are to cease, and in future they will be conducted in connection with the Agricultural College at Bhagalpur.

Consequent on the revision of the University Regulations, candidates are now prepared for degrees in Engineering as Civil Engineers or Mining Engineers or Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Provision for practical training has been made, and the existing rules will soon be modified to permit of the admission of students who do not propose to enter Government service, without any limit as to age.

Bihar School of Engineering.

697. There were 198 students in attendance during the year. The course of study corresponds with that of the Apprentice Department at Sibpur, but the same facilities for practical instruction do not exist. Overseers and amins are trained. The school, as a whole, is in a vigorous and healthy condition.

Cuttack Survey School.

698. This school is designed chiefly to provide amins, but as a rule the Survey and Settlement Departments prefer training their own men to accepting passed students of these schools. It is proposed to enlarge the school and expand it up to the standard of the Bihar School, *i.e.*, to teach up to the full Overseer course.

Other Schools.

699. There is a very successful District Board school at Burdwan that teaches up to the Sub-Overseer standard. There is a similar but unsuccessful school at Midnapore. Steps to place its control on a more satisfactory basis and so to ensure its efficiency in future have been taken.

Technical Education in High Schools.

700. The inauguration of "B" and "C" courses, alternating with the University Entrance course in the high schools has not achieved up to the present the results anticipated from the scheme. This is probably because the Entrance examination still dominates secondary education to the exclusion of rival courses. In 1903, when the first "B" course final examination was held, 21 students came up for the examination. In 1906 only 6 students presented themselves. To secure that more attention will be paid to these classes in future, it has been arranged to have them inspected by the Principal of the Sibpur College, and Divisional Inspectors have been requested to encourage and foster their development.

It has been decided to constitute a joint board (for this Province and the new Province) to control the "B" course final examination, also the Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations and to advise as to the syllabus for each of these classes.

Mining.

701. The course for the Mining Class at Sibpur College has lately been decided on. The results of the first year's work have been most encouraging

Practical lessons were given for two months at Jherria, with the cordial co-operation of mine owners and local mine managers.

During the year two courses of lectures were delivered in Mining districts, as advised by the Mining Advisory Board. The attendance was extremely good and this new departure has met with immediate success.

702. As distinguished from Technical Schools, these are designed to teach manual dexterity to the artizans actually engaged or likely to engage in any industry, without going deeply into the theories or principles that underlie the practice of that industry. **Industrial Schools.**

703. The Serampore Weaving School is soon to be in working order. It is the most interesting experiment at present in contemplation, with a view to improving indigenous methods and reviving moribund industries. **Serampore.**

704. The artizans' classes at Sibpur do not seem to attract the persons for whom they they were designed in any numbers. In 1904 there were 42 artizans under training. In 1907 15 only. The local conditions prevent Sibpur from attracting artizans from Calcutta or from the Mufassal, as there is no barrack or other accommodation. **Sibpur Artizans' classes.**

705. In Ranchi and Hazaribagh, industrial schools have made great progress during the last five years. There are now 30 schools and 465 pupils in that division and the future prospects are bright. **Ranchi Industrial School.**

706. It is recognised that Industrial and Technical Education have special features that place them outside the General Education Department. It is proposed to recruit a special officer to superintend and inspect all Technical and Industrial Institutions, so as to co-ordinate them to the trades and industries of the province. Until this is done it is vain to look for much progress. **General.**

707. It is only recently that the Calcutta Art School has ceased to be a medium for introducing European "Art" through the medium of indifferent copies of old Italian and early English works, and has been restored to its legitimate place, namely, to improve Indian Art. There are now two main divisions in it—one for the branches subsidiary to industries, such as design, engraving, drawing, and skilled draughtsmanship; the other, the Fine Art side, for painters and sculptors. There are already good practical results, especially from the advanced design class. Lacquer work and frescoes by this class are already in demand, and a marked tendency to originality is apparent. On the other, the Fine Art side, progress has not been so rapid, as the bad traditions of 40 years must first be got rid of. **Calcutta Art School.**

708. At present 252 students are in attendance, 235 of them being Hindus. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 23,191, of which over Rs. 17,000 was paid by Government.

Three other institutions teaching drawing, engraving, moulding and lithography return a class roll of 235 students. These private schools are all in Calcutta. Their expenditure for the past year was Rs. 13,338. One of them, called the Indian Art School, received during the year a grant of Rs. 100 from the Calcutta Municipality. **Private Schools of Art.**

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Restorations and Repairs.

709. At Kanarak the work in connection with the preservation of the Jagamohan Temple was completed, the greater portion of the stone heap west of the temple was removed, and the planting of trees to keep off the drift sand was continued. Repairs were carried out to the Minar at Pandua, the old mosque at Satgaon, Baktyar Khan's tomb and the four roads on the plateau of the Rhotas Palace. Iron gates were fixed to Hussain Sur Shah's tomb. Vegetation and jungle growth were removed from the buildings at Tribeni, the Shergarh Fortress, the Rhotas Palace, and the tombs of Sher Shah and Hussain Sur Shah.

Administrative.

710. During the year a special Imperial Department, to deal with all matters of Archæological interest on a comprehensive system, has been constituted. Its field of operations is extremely extensive, and the results of its labours should be of the highest interest.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

711. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon and Bishop's Chaplain of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese and Archdeaconry of Calcutta, the Most Revd. Archbishop Dr. Brice Meulman, S.J., 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 11 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, and 10 priests of the Roman Catholic Church. **Establishment**

Chemical Examiner's Report.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1906. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

712. The number of articles examined increased from 4,848 in 1905 to 5,528 in 1906, the excess being chiefly in the Medico-Legal Department, viz., 595, which is said to be probably due to an increase of crime, owing to the famine conditions which prevailed during a considerable part of the year under review. **Total of cases.**

713. In the General Department 2,133 cases were examined, against 2,048 in 1905, or an increase of 85. This chiefly occurred under the head "Spirit determinations" for the Customs Department, from which 158 samples were received, against 98 in the preceding year. For the Port Commissioners, 215 samples of kerosine oil were examined, 6 being declared dangerous petroleum, against 252 and nil in 1905. **General Department.**

One hundred and sixty-four samples of water were received for analysis, against 163 in the previous year. The proportion of good and pure water was, however, larger, being 9·14 against 3·06 per cent. in 1905.

Considering the importance attached to the question of milk-supply, it is noteworthy that, of the 15 samples examined, 8 were found to be adulterated. This points to the great necessity which exists for the adoption of such precautionary measures as will ensure the supply of pure milk.

714. There is an increase from 1,519 in 1905-1906 to 1,762 medico-legal cases examined during the year. **Medico-legal cases.**

Viscera of 648 individuals were examined against 580 in 1905, poison being detected in 47·22 per cent. against 45·34 in 1905. As usual, "opium" was the chief poison found, viz., in 25·39 per cent. of the cases and, including morphine, in 26·25 per cent. Arsenic comes next with 9·21 per cent. The poison detected in the viscera of horned cattle is represented by 77·88 per cent., against 74·76 in 1905. In cases of articles suspected to be cattle poison, arsenic was the chief poison traced in 64·60 per cent.

An increase in detection of poison is noticeable in the cases of human viscera received from Chota Nagpur (from 38·46 in 1905 to 53·84 per cent. in 1906), Patna (from 45·83 to 55·83 per cent.) and Port Blair (from 40 to 100 per cent.), while there was a decrease in the Orissa and Bhagalpur Divisions.

In five cases the Police Surgeon ascribed death to natural causes, but poison was detected in two. Poison was also found in 2 out of the 15 cases sent up by Civil Surgeons with a similar opinion. Out of 15 and 11 cases in which death was ascribed by Assistant Surgeons and Civil Hospital Assistants

to natural causes, poison was found in four and three cases respectively. There is room for caution in giving opinions in such cases. The attention of the medical officers will be drawn to this.

In a case of Datura poisoning the articles sent for examination were found to contain both atrophine and traces of arsenic. As yellow arsenic is sometimes used in the preparation of yellow wax-cloth, suspicion fell on the yellow wax-cloth cover of the parcel which, on examination, was found to contain arsenic. On the matter being reported, instructions were issued to Civil Surgeons to discontinue the use of yellow wax-cloth in packing medico-legal cases in future.

Veterinary Department.

[The Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1906-1907.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

715. The total number of students on the roll of the Bengal Veterinary College at the end of the year under report was 104 as against 106 in the previous year. The results of the last annual examination are highly satisfactory, the percentage of the successful students in each of the classes A, B and C being 96·66, 100 and 87·09, respectively, as compared with 57, 82 and 47 in the previous year. Many projects of extension and improvement have occupied the attention of the Managing Committee and of Government during the past year. The institution is developing rapidly. The Bacteriological Laboratory of the College has been completed and equipped with furniture and apparatus. The extension of the Glanders and Farcy Act to Calcutta and its suburbs has added very considerably to the work of the Principal. So far no serious difficulties have arisen in connection with the administration of the Act.

Veterinary Infirmary, Belgachia.

716. The total number of cases treated in the Infirmary attached to the Veterinary College was 3,095, of which 1,905 were in-patients and 1,190 out-patients, as against 2,407, of which 1,483 were in-patients and 924 out-patients in the preceding year. The institution is gaining in popularity.

Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.

717. The number of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries, excluding the Bengal Veterinary College, working at the close of the year under review was 23 as against 20 in the preceding year. Two new dispensaries were started in Jessore and Sambalpur, and a Pinjrapole was established at Hazaribagh. The total number of in- and out-patients treated during the year was 32,736, of which 10,435 were horses, 18,525 cattle and 3,776 other animals, as against 9,018, 14,189 and 3,698, respectively, in 1905-06. In some cases (*e.g.*, Palamau), there has been a marked increase, while in others (*e.g.*, Howrah) there has been a large decline.

Diseases.

718. The number of reported deaths of cattle from contagious diseases shows a considerable increase over that of the previous year, viz., from 12,374 to 59,857, of which 38,832 occurred in the 24-Parganas district alone. The increase is, no doubt, due in part to a better system of reporting; but a further explanation of the figures returned from the 24-Parganas district, is necessary.

Excluding the figures for the Infirmary at the Sodepur Pinjrapole, where 478 equine cases were admitted, of which 313 were infected with glanders, there were 875 cases of deaths from glanders and farcy as against 530 in the previous year.

Inoculation.

719. Inoculation for rinderpest continues to make satisfactory progress. The number of these inoculations was 24,074 as compared with 22,613 in the previous year and 9,454 in 1903-04. The number of deaths after inoculation has fallen to 84 as compared with 183 and 166, respectively, in the two previous years. Prompt and effectual measures were taken to combat outbreaks of anthrax.

Breeding operations.

720. The breeding work carried on at Sripur and Pusa is still in its very early stages and no conclusion can yet be drawn from the results. The experiment conducted with the eight Montgomery bulls obtained last year to improve the strain of local milch-cattle has proved a failure. Neither farm is as yet in a position to supply young stock. A scheme for the improvement of the Siri breed of cattle in the hills near Darjeeling has been prepared.

Fairs and Shows. 721. There were 12 fairs and shows during the year as against 10 in the preceding year. New fairs were started at Chutia, Khulna and Chatra. The fair at Rajnagar was not held owing to famine.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report by its Honorary Committee for 1906-1907.]

Amir's visit. 722. The visits of His Majesty the Amir of Kabul were the most important events of the year, and it is satisfactory to note that he took more than a casual interest in going round the garden and seeing everything worth seeing.

Buildings. 723. With the exception of the extension of the boundary wall as far as the exit gate on the Belvedere Road, at a cost of Rs. 4,102, no permanent improvement of any importance was undertaken during the year.

The buildings used as habitations for animals are necessarily subject to more than ordinary wear and tear, requiring constant care and supervision in respect of their maintenance in a proper state of repair.

The following is a list of some of the more important repairs executed during the year:—

(1) *Burdwan House.*—Repaired, outside colourwashed, dens whitewashed, and iron works repainted.
(2) *Smaller Carnivora House.*—Repaired, colourwashed and repainted.
(3) *Murshidabad House*—Repaired and repainted.
(4) *Reptile House and its cages.*—Whitewashed and repainted.
(5) *The Hermitage.*—Repaired, colourwashed and repainted.
(6) *Buckland Enclosure.*—Repaired and repainted.
(7) *Peafowl Pavilion.*—New partition erected and general repairs attended to.
(8) *Abdul Gani House, for bears.*—Iron work strengthened, whitewashed and repainted.

Petty repairs of smaller houses, sheds and enclosures were attended to.

Finance. 724. It will appear from the following comparative statement of receipts from visitors that the financial condition of the garden was even better than that of the previous year, which was exceptionally good in this respect—

	Rs.	A.
1904-05	24,168	0
1905-06	31,224	4
1906-07	33,474	4

Number of visitors. 725. The attendance of visitors showed a very satisfactory increase during the year, the turnstile records indicating a total for the year of 457,891 persons admitted—a daily average of 1,254.

Comparative table of visitors during the last three years—

1904-05	346,254
1905-06	422,282
1906-07	457,891

In addition, a large number of children under four years of age and school children attended by their teachers were admitted free. On the day of the Fancy Fair, about 11,050 people, including complimentary ticket-holders, entered the garden. Special permission was granted to the inmates of the Reformatory School at Alipore to visit the garden under proper escort.

B. S. Press—4-4-1908—27265—625—E. J. H. and others.